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Yeltsin: CIS Summit Not Directly Linked to Referendum

LD1604125893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1214 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 16 Apr—"The current meeting between the CIS heads of state is not directly connected to the upcoming referendum—on 25 April—in Russia," Russia's President Boris Yeltsin stated to journalists at Minsk airport today.

"The aim of the meeting is to talk about further improving the Commonwealth," he said. "As far as Russia is concerned, it is in favor of much integration in economics and politics."

In answer to a question on whether the president of Russia was counting on international support on the threshold of the referendum, Boris Yeltsin noted that foreign affairs and finance ministers from the G-7 countries had expressed surprise about the vote counting system adopted at the last Congress of Russia's People's Deputies.

Stanislav Shushkevich, who was asked whether Belarus supported Russia's president, answered that Belarus supported democracy and human rights. Belarus, he said, had always supported good relations with Russia and hoped that Russia would continue to relate well to Belarus in the future.

Armenia Calls for 2-Stage Karabakh Settlement

LD1604124093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 16 Apr—"Settlement of the Karabakh conflict should take place in two stages," Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan announced after arriving in the Belarusian capital to participate in the extraordinary meeting of heads of CIS states. The first stage of the settlement, he says, should be a cease-fire and the securing of protection of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. The second stage should envisage discussion of and a solution to the legal issues—namely a clarification of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. The need to discuss the state of affairs in and the fate of the CIS has given urgency to today's meeting of heads of Commonwealth states, Levon Ter-Petrosyan stressed. The CIS has unfortunately not become the effective mechanism it should be today, he added.

Shushkevich Calls For 'Workable' Economic Agreements

LD1604114493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0930 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineev and Leonid Timofeev]

[Text] Minsk April 16 TASS—Belarus seeks to make the economic agreements, concluded within the CIS framework, workable, chairman of the Belarussian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich told journalists at the airport. He is meeting there participants in the extraordinary CIS summit which opens here today. According to Shushkevich, "if the customs union, the bank and other institutions start working, the Commonwealth will be working too."

Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the CIS working group, pointed out that the current meeting was convened because it was necessary to discuss the economic situation in the CIS member states. He told journalists that at first only the leaders of the countries would meet, and then they would be joined by their delegations. He expects some documents to be signed as a result of the meeting.

Supports Economic Union

OW1604120393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of Belarussia's Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich has reaffirmed support for an economic union within the CIS. Speaking on republican television Thursday [15 April] night, he noted that such an alliance was essential but regretted that cooperation had not lived up to expectations. "We have always favored ruble accounts, without custom trade" - Mr. Shushkevich remarked.

As for a military union, that's an altogether different issue, the parliament's speaker said. In his words, a country cannot seek non-nuclear status and neutrality and at the same time join military and political alliances. For this reason, he voiced opposition to his republic's membership in the CIS collective security treaty.

He underlined that the decision adopted by the national parliament to oblige him to sign the treaty contravenes the current legislation and the country's military doctrine, endorsed by the parliament. He admitted that the parliament's presidium disagreed over the issue. 13 presidium members approve collective security, the remaining 6, Mr. Shushkevich himself among them, disapprove of it.

Commenting on President Yeltsin's remark about Russia's plans to sell oil to former Soviet republics at world prices, Mr. Shushkevich emphasized that this process was inevitable. "Russia would come to that sooner or later," he said. The Belarusian leader said that economic development should match the new conditions that had emerged in the republic after the proclamation of its independence.

Restates Military Nonalignment Policy

OW1404164693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Interview with Stanislav Shushkevich, Belarusian parliament chairman, by unidentified INTERFAX correspondent; place and date not given; report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian parliament, has once again said he is against the republic's joining the collective security system of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Here are his arguments as given to Interfax in an exclusive interview:

Stanislav Shushkevich: I stand for a consistent policy. We have stated in our Constitution that we seek to become a neutral nuclear-free state, but we are taking steps which contradict this goal. Does the republic have to join a military union in order to become a neutral country? Will it have to replenish its arsenals as it disarms? It's absurd! Most deputies who voted for joining the collective security system based their decision on an old socialist habit, that of seeking to justify violations of the law by the need to defend some nonexistent, invented "supreme national interests."

Corr.: Invented? But those who stand for joining the collective security system say Russia is determined to charge hard currency for the armaments and the components it supplies to Belarus.

S.S.: This is an invention. At any rate, I don't know any Russian statesman who has said or written that. I'm trying to find out who might have made such statements. I was given a few names, but those people told me they had never said anything of the kind.

The government says Belarus should join the Collective Security Treaty in order to save its military enterprises. Those are naive illusions. The Belarusian defense industry will never get enough contracts from Russia to produce as much as it did in Soviet times. I am convinced that the only way to solve the problem is to carry out a serious "nonspace" conversion. But at present this is going extremely slowly.

The government is taking its cues from the military industrial complex. It's possible, of course, that a couple of months after we join the Collective Security Treaty there will be certain pseudo-improvements in our defense industry. But is that a good solution to the problem? It would slow down conversion.

Vyacheslav Kebich said that, as long as he remained prime minister, Belarusian citizens would not do their national service in any "hot spot". I'm afraid I can't share his optimism. Then, another argument in favor of joining the collective security system is that, whenever we have problems in our armed forces or defense industry, military specialists would come from other CIS states to help us solve them, for example, doing maintenance work for certain armaments. But wouldn't we have to send our own specialists to other Commonwealth countries to do the same kind of work on systems we had made, especially if those countries were going through hard times or had "hot spots" in them? Can a collective security treaty give advantages to us without giving them to others?

It's a remarkable fact that Kebich has never said it was his personal conviction that Belarus should joint the system. He has always spoken on behalf of his government. But what is a collective opinion in a body like a government? The subordination principle works unfailingly there.

Apart from that, I can't work out the legal aspect of the procedure parliament has instructed me to carry out, namely signing the Collective Security Treaty on behalf of Belarus. One can simply join the treaty, that is it just has to be ratified by parliament. There are no clauses in it laying down a formula for signing it. And it can't be ratified either because it hasn't come into force yet. The treaty is to come into force immediately after the signatory states have presented their instruments of ratification. But, as far as I know, Armenia is so far the only country that has done so.

In the last two days I have been consulting many lawyers, mainly Belarusian ones. They were just smiling and saying it was simply impossible to give any legal advice in such a situation. It's paradoxical—I don't know what I have to sign, but, at the same time, I must carry out the will of the Supreme Soviet! Apart from this, it's absolutely obvious to me that in Belarus, Russia, and other CIS countries enemies of democracy are raising their heads. Their motto is "the will of the working people." They wish to restore the Soviet Union as a totalitarian structure. What is most dangerous is that this desire is being entertained in many places. Many deputies are dancing to the tune of antidemocratic forces. There are those in the government who can only rule the old way, there are those who are fed up with democracy, those who want to bring back the past, as well as members of the former nomenklatura who would like to have their old welfare back. All of them have come together and now demand that sovereignty be scrapped. In my view, this is what the government's proposal for joining the Collective Security Treaty is really all about.

Corr.: What makes you think the government is ruling the old way?

S.S.: The government has provided benefits to so many deputies that it can easily get parliament to carry any motion it makes. We have no separation of powers whatsoever. A deputy chairman of a state committee, for example, can simultaneously be a deputy to the Minsk City Council and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet. In this kind of situation, it's difficult to understand where the legislative branch ends and the executive one begins. But

power is held by the same structures and individuals as before. So our movement towards independence, tentative as our first steps were, was more than many of the deputies could cope with, for they were not used to making their own decisions.

For instance, the statistics department which comes within government jurisdiction reported that in January and February industrial production in Belarus had gone up. I made use of the figures because I trusted our government. But then it turns out those figures have nothing to do with reality because they are based on prices and production volumes invented by those who run our industry. Much of the output was never marketed, so when I received the ultimate statistics, it became clear to me that production had seriously gone down. Who did they want to deceive? When Belarus was still in the Soviet Union, its leadership knew how to get money from Moscow. But that money didn't have to be given back, since it was the same country, whereas now it must be. When the Supreme Soviet took control of the government's monetary affairs, it transpired that, on top of a large hard currency debt, Belarus had a ruble one worth more than one hundred billion [as received]. The sum had been received from the Central Bank of Russia as technial credit. In other words, the government does what it likes not only with the state budget but also with a sum that will have to be paid by our children. This is all a deep power crisis. The top echelons of authority are unable to rule the old way. The crisis is taking grotesque forms: "If Belarus doesn't join the Collective Security Treaty Mother Russia will give us neither oil nor gas!" Isn't that absurd?

Corr.: Do you consider yourself to be Kebich's political adversary?

S.S.: There is no personal confrontation between us. It's a civilized confrontation of ideas and principles. I consider Kebich a patriot of Belarus and am trying to bring him round to my point of view.

Besides, there's a fairly simple and democratic way to solve the problem, a referendum. I suggest the following proposition for it: "Do you support the political neutrality of the Republic of Belarus, which presupposes non-participation in any military political unions with other countries or alliances of countries?" There have been sociological surveys which have shown that the overwhelming majority of our population does not wish Belarus to join any military bloc.

Corr.: On Friday the CIS heads of state will be holding a meeting in Minsk. What makes it necessary?

S.S.: Circumstances are forcing us to formulate principles for consolidating the Commonwealth and making the procedures of economic interaction within it more efficient. It may happen that no agreements will be signed on Friday. There may just be a joint communique. What we need is a strategy for our policy of reform and the kind of coordination that would benefit everyone.

Kozyrev Discusses Foreign Policy Framework

MK1604124493 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 16 Apr 93 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev by Anatoliy Pankov under the "Politics" rubric; place and date not given: "More Internal Enemies Than External Ones"]

[Text] He has sold Russia and betrayed the Russians, he is an agent of world capital, he should be stigmatized, removed.... All this is said about one man—Russia's first postcommunist foreign minister. But in reply, Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev travels the whole world, upholding the new foreign policy thinking and, at the same time, understanding that this policy of Russia's could have more internal enemies than external ones.

[Pankov] Andrey Vladimirovich, in recent years there has been a great deal of talk that Russia, the Foreign Ministry, and you personally as minister do not have a foreign policy doctrine. What is your attitude to these statements: Does this doctrine exist, and what are its main points?

[Kozyrev] First of all, we have to be aware of what kind of state we have, get our own internal bearings, and then get our bearings in relation to the surrounding world. The concept of the Russian state is now taking shape and is followed, accordingly, by the concept of foreign policy. Hence this dissatisfaction, which is natural for the present situation in the country.

There is also a second problem in this question—the doctrinaire nature of our thinking. We were accustomed to the CPSU's programs being adopted.

[Pankov] For the immediate historical period....

[Kozyrev] ...In which answers to everything are given, and everything is explained: This is black, this is white.... Things remained virtually as they were laid down in the "Short Course" of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), just with minor changes being made. For example, the latest party congress made the change to the effect that the threat of inevitable war does not exist, but the essence of imperialism remains.

And the third consideration. We have, nevertheless, advanced a doctrine as a kind of working hypothesis, as a guideline. But it is, of course, flexible and is elaborated in just the same way as doctrine, let us say, in the United States, where a new administration accedes to power and formulates the same postulates in a new way. The postulates always consist of ensuring favorable external conditions for America's economic progress, followed by specific tasks.

I wish to emphasize especially that without a return to totalitarian ideology in our state there will be no return to the existence of a monolithic, totalitarian concept of foreign policy. It is here that the second part of the matter begins: Different political forces in our country formulate their foreign policy guidelines differently. The first thing I said on becoming minister was that the West's democratic states would be equally natural partners of the future democratic Russia, which at the time was still the USSR, as they had been class enemies of the totalitarian Soviet Union. This is a fundamental, qualitative change in foreign policy orientation.

I addressed the very first big rally after the victory over the putschists and said: "Citizens of the free world! Russia's diplomacy and foreign policy will never again be the diplomatic tool of the CPSU." It was then that our most reliable partners and potential allies came to light once again: It was democratic countries that proved to be the allies of democratic Russia against the revanchist putsch. This was the second landmark.

Subsequently, as we increasingly emerged independently into the international arena, these theses began to be supplemented by the less ideological but very important thesis of the belt of good-neighborliness. At the same time, the concept of good-neighborliness does not mean abandonment of one's own interests. But whereas the Soviet Union understood the protection of the interests not of national states but only, essentially, of the ruling party clique through confrontation with the surrounding world, we understand the realization of interests through cooperation.

Of course, each state has special interests, and their realization is sometimes accompanied by very sharp arguments, as we observe among states that are direct allies—in NATO, for example, where there are very sharp arguments, including trade disputes. But it is not only better to wage a trade war (if it should come to this), in other words, to struggle for Russia's access to markets—it is the only possible thing precisely under conditions of political partnership and, in the long term, alliance with Western states. For it is not a trade war but a Cold War that is waged against an ideological and political enemy—a policy of an iron curtain.

[Pankov] Your concept appears logical, simple, and, I believe, comprehensible to everyone. Why does it elicit such fierce opposition from certain political forces and deputies?

[Kozyrev] Because of its utter novelty. The Soviet Union was a besieged fortress confronting the surrounding world, and suddenly here is a doctrine and practice based on cooperation with former enemies.

It is as plain as the nose on your face that such a doctrine is totally unacceptable to the opposition forces. For them it is just as sharp a knife as the economic reform. For more than 70 years private ownership was taboo—the symbol of the enemy—and suddenly here is privatization.

Kozyrev's foreign policy elicits the same biological opposition as Gaydar's monetarism and Chubays' privatization. Read PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and

DEN. There are no arguments, just a stream of out-and-out ideological propaganda. Just the same as it used to be in PRAVDA, let us say, in respect of imperialism.

For a certain section of the opposition, our doctrine either does not exist at all, or does exist but is perfidious. In my view, however, what they offer in the guise of patriotism is a betrayal of national interests, as was the case for 70 years. To drive a great people, whose entire culture and entire life are inseparable from the civilized world process, behind an iron curtain, to keep them there like animals in a cage, which the whole world feared, and to reduce them, in addition, to poverty (to a considerable extent as a result of isolation from the world economy)—is this called patriotism? Does patriotism mean being on friendly terms, as they now propose, with Iran, Iraq, Libya, and the Yugoslav national patriots? Pulling chestnuts out of the fire for the sake of this international political rabble, as I call them?

[Pankov] In a recent television interview the speaker of our parliament said that our foreign policy has been messed up....

[Kozyrev] In this case, as in a number of others, the speaker reflects the viewpoint of the so-called national patriotic wing or the majority of the deputy corps, who believe that the establishment of a political partnership and access to full-scale economic relations with the G-7, the IMF, the Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the EEC—in other words, what we have been tackling every day—constitute a failure, since, according to the "Short Course," these institutions are tools of imperialism.

None of them has answered this question: How, while confronting the West or these institutions, will they attract investments in conversion and break into the market for space services? Who will admit a country that is politically hostile into a market for services closely linked to the military aspect?

[Pankov] Is there mutual understanding between you and Yeltsin?

[Kozyrev] What I say reflects not only my personal views but also views shared by the president, above all, and by the country's democratic leadership.

[Pankov] What are the prospects for your strained relations with the Supreme Soviet? What would you say about the recurrent proposals for your resignation?

[Kozyrev] I will say honestly: I even feel a certain inner satisfaction. It used to be that Yeltsin, naturally, was enemy No. 1. Next came Burbulis, who is no longer around. Then it was Gaydar, who is not around either. I was somewhere in third or fourth place. Now the official source of the extreme opposition—the newspaper DEN—frankly states that I am enemy No. 2.

[Pankov] Congratulations, your rating is going up.

[Kozyrev] I perceive this as a kind of recognition that we are on the right road.

[Pankov] Do you know who the opposition's shadow foreign minister is?

[Kozyrev] Well, Chernomyrdin has named Zhirinovskiy.... (We both burst out laughing)

[Pankov] Who also influences foreign policy aspects, apart from the president? To what extent do Chernomyrdin, Skokov, and Ambartsumov?

[Kozyrev] Chernomyrdin undoubtedly plays a significant role as premier and participates in decisionmaking. Skokov has participated several times as secretary of the Security Council when questions connected, above all, with military aspects have been discussed. We have constant working contacts with Ambartsumov as chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on International Policy; we discuss all major measures, and after a sensible discussion and sharp disputes we manage to find mutual understanding. But the trouble is that the majority of the deputies do not support these accords and this sensible policy. It is possible to discuss with them only how best to violate, say, the sanctions against Iraq.

[Pankov] Has Khasbulatov tried to interfere in your affairs with his bits of advice and to exert pressure regarding specific questions?

[Kozyrev] Generally I have never given up dialogue with Khasbulatov. Moreover, initially, when he was following a somewhat different course, I often approached him, in an official and unofficial, amicable way (we have, after all, known each other a long time). I am, after all, one of those ministers who was once approved by the Supreme Soviet. Khasbulatov and I preliminarily discussed the concept which I delivered at the time, and he supported it. I have not deviated from it. But lately Khasbulatov has clearly been moving away to other positions.

[Pankov] Has anything changed in your situation, your environment, since Chernomyrdin replaced Gaydar?

[Kozyrev] I would rather not say.

[Pankov] Judging from our readers' mail, the situation in nearby foreign countries currently concerns them considerably more than mutual relations with the world community—because there used to be one united country and they traveled where they wanted, but now there are borders and many people have relatives beyond them. One of the main allegations against the Foreign Ministry is that Russia has betrayed the Russian-speaking population in the former USSR republics.

[Kozyrev] Of course, the Union's partition has proceeded apace. One can try to pin the blame on a specific person for this or on a department, the Foreign Ministry for instance. But the problems of the Russian-speaking population should not be dealt with by the Foreign Ministry, which is an institution for intergovernmental

ties. We can open embassies, which is what we have done. We are opening consulates. But to concern itself with establishing interpersonal contacts, to give economic support, for instance to an enterprise where the Russian-speaking population works—the Foreign Ministry is not in a position to do this.

It is an extremely complex problem and it is very bad that in our country it is not so much a subject of serious conversation as of political speculation. The Russian-speaking population can very easily be set off and egged on to commit completely rash acts, and as a result there will be a Yugoslav variant—a war of everyone against everyone. We have managed to avoid this variant, not because we have simply abandoned the Russian-speaking population but because we are seeking any way out apart from a solution involving force.

Specifically, we are pursuing a policy of linkage between our economic, military, and other ties and the attitude in a particular country toward the Russian-speaking population. For instance, the situation in Lithuania is better, and we have advanced further in resolving the questions in which it has an interest. In Estonia and Latvia the human rights situation is much worse, and we are not proceeding toward a whole series of agreements. Of course, if we were economically stronger there would be greater potential to exert influence. It is indeed because of this, above all, that the Americans are respected abroad... True, it must be said plainly that they are protecting only U.S. citizens and not English-speakers.

Our Supreme Soviet, which loves debating human rights so much, is not amending the Russian law on citizenship in order to enable our fellow countrymen in nearby and faraway foreign countries to have dual citizenship.

[Pankov] That is, we ourselves are rejecting our fellow countrymen who find themselves without Russian citizenship?

[Kozyrev] Of course. I will give you a specific example. In October, at the very height of the bloodshed and chaos in Tajikistan, I was there. On my arrival I wrote everyone in the Supreme Soviet I could think of, starting with the chairman, detailed letters and accounts in which I proposed that deputies from Tajikistan be invited for a nongovernmental exchange, that hearings be held, and simply that attention be given to both our 201st Division and the Russian-speaking population... There was neither a reply nor an invitation. There was only talk and heroic posturing. Evidently the deputies are more concerned with the struggle with the executive branch.

[Pankov] What are you more concerned with right now—nearby or faraway foreign countries?

[Kozyrev] Nearby.

[Pankov] Russia's population reacts especially sensitively to mutual relations with "fraternal Ukraine." What causes concern is the situation regarding Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet, and now nuclear weapons.

[Kozyrev] As I see it there is a problem here concerning the unrealistic, not to say excessive, demands on the part of our Ukrainian colleagues. On the one hand they very much want to be completely independent, but on the other... Just look. They want special delivery conditions for oil.

[Pankov] An "older brother" is needed here...

[Kozyrev] It very much wants to be equal as regards nuclear weapons. The Muscovites, they say, have nuclear weapons, so why don't we? These things, multiplied by political unreadiness and the playing of the nationalist card, are clouding the issue. But at the same time I would not wish to dramatize. Most likely it is growing pains, both ours and theirs.

Mutual relations are also made more difficult by the heroic rhetoric of our national patriots. With their statements they are nurturing nationalists in all other republics.

[Pankov] Extremism is extremism, yet Crimea is not the Baltic region; our population has other historical roots here.

[Kozyrev] I understand. Nonetheless the Crimean problem must be solved as much as possible in peaceful conditions. This is no illusion and neither is it a Leopold's cat position [allusion unknown]. I will give you a simple example. For two centuries France and Germany fought for Saarland. A sea of blood was shed. But it proved possible to solve this territorial dispute eight years after World War II, when an alliance between France and Germany was proclaimed. Political maturity was indeed shown here, especially by France, which was the victor and could have continued to issue threats. But the French learned their lessons from historical experience and themselves extended their hands to the Germans, entered into partnership relations with them, and agreed to hold a plebiscite and to transfer authority from one set of hands to another.

[Pankov] Are you saying that a plebiscite is a form of solving the Crimean problem?

[Kozyrev] As it happens, it is possible. But only in favorable political conditions. It is a mistake to think that it is easier to solve these questions in a situation of political hysteria and confrontation. You recall the trips by certain of our political leaders to the Crimea and the speeches containing very tough statements? What did it all end in? Nothing. Relations with Ukraine were soured, the situation in Crimea was extremely inflamed, and blood could have been shed.

At the same time I want to say that on its own initiative the Foreign Ministry is making fairly tough statements and representations. This is only the tip of the iceberg of the constant dialogue and the very sharp disputes which we are carrying on regarding the fleet and Sevastopol... But there is no need to publicize this work or a tough dispute (and we are having very firm words with the

West on a number of questions). But the hysterical level of political bragging brings nothing but harm.

[Pankov] We were a great power, but very serious economic difficulties appeared and we virtually went around the world with a begging bowl... Have they stopped considering us a great power abroad, have they stopped respecting us?

[Kozyrev] Nothing of the kind. They have stopped seeing us as an ogre and started seeing us as normal people with normal interests.

[Pankov] How do you assess the results of the Vancouver meeting?

[Kozyrev] It is confirmation of the fact that, even though we have stopped threatening the whole world, including the United States, we are still a great power and moreover one of America's leading partners.

[Pankov] Supporters of democratic transformations regard your foreign policy as a part of the general renewal process in Russia and wish you, Andrey Vladimirovich, firmness, consistency, and success.

[Kozyrev] Thank you.

Churkin Yugoslav Mission Ends in Apparent Failure

OW1504160393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The efforts of the Russian president's special envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, to promote a settlement to the Yugoslav problem, have not brought about the expected results. Due to this, instead of flying to London for further consultations on the settlement of the Bosnian problem, Churkin will return to Moscow on April 16, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax.

He said that the Bosnian Serbs who, unlike the Bosnian Muslims and the Bosnian Croatians, had not signed the Vance-Owen plan, continued to insist on re-drafting the map of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to the Vance-Owen plan, the republic is to be divided into ten semi-autonomous provinces. "It looks like the Bosnian Serbs consider the minimal changes which the world community is ready to make on the map of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be too minimal," said the Russian diplomat.

He also noted that the Bosnian Croatians, to say nothing of Muslims, would hardly welcome the wish of the Bosnian Serbs. One may get the impression that the Serbs are provoked not to sign the Vance-Owen plan," he said.

The Russian diplomat believes that in the current situation the Serbs should weigh everything once again and understand that territorial concessions must be made for the sake of the Serbs' future. Otherwise, the Serbs will challenge the world community, he added. Obviously, pending the vote in the UN Security Council, the Belgrade, Bosnian and Krajina Serbs should hold a conference and take the only correct decision," said the Russian diplomat.

He also noted that military superiority led to the Serbs' political defeat. "The experience gained during World War II shows that military victories do not necessarily lead to a political triumph. The time has come for the Serbs to understand this truth so familiar to Russians," he said in conclusion.

Kozyrev Addresses Sanctions

LD1504131293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—The solution of the issue on toughening sanctions against the union republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is "in the hands of the conflicting sides, mostly of Bosnian Serbs and their colleagues in Belgrade", according to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"We firmly stated it to the Serbs that we also have the limits of influence and patience and that we are not going to play into the hands of nationalistic forces on the background of reports about the continuing bloodshed", he told TASS on Thursday in Tokyo where he attended a G-7 meeting.

Nationalistic forces in Serbia should not think that Russia will treat them differently from home-bred nationalists, the minister added. "However, we think it necessary to give yet another chance to make a decision", Kozyrev said, adding that Russia will use all possible means so that the Serbs do not miss the chance—from "shuttle diplomacy" of Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin to personal influence of President Boris Yeltsin.

The minister expressed hope that a reasonable decision would be adopted on the basis of the world-recognised Vance-Owen plan. "We defended the stand that this plan should not be viewed as an ultimatum", Kozyrev said, adding, however, that each compromise has its limits and immense demands of one side mean a deduction from the interests of the other side.

There can be certain corrections, but they cannot be that considerable so as to drive the other side into a corner, the minister said.

Yugoslav President States Case for Serbs

MK1404120493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 93 p 4

["Exclusive" article by Dobrica Cosic, president of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: "Restoration of Peace in Former Yugoslavia Possible if Policy of National Compromise Is Implemented"]

[Text] The most important question for all honest people in the former Yugoslavia now is how to end the terrible war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and how to restore a just and lasting peace. The Bosnian question remains very complex and painful. Europe has been tackling it actively but unsuccessfully ever since the Berlin Congress of 1878.

The challenge of the times is to maintain European peace and consolidate southeast Europe. This requires a wise, farsighted, and resolute approach to a final settlement of the Bosnian crisis. No decision that does not respect the Serbs' legitimate and historical demands will be long-term and lasting. I would like to emphasize that the Serbs had lived in a single state—Yugoslavia—ever since 1918. Because the independence of the republics of the former SFRY was recognized, the Serbs suddenly found themselves in three states at once—Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Of course, it is very hard for them to accept this, particularly as no one has ever asked them about it. At the same time this cannot make the Serbs aggressors. None of those who have lived on this land and defended it for centuries can be considered an aggressor.

Unfortunately, the international community is trying to settle the Bosnian crisis through one-sided diktat, sanctions, ultimatums, and a threat of military intervention against the Serbs. The Serbs in Bosnia are being made to live in the same state as Muslims and Croats. At first the same countries supported the country's division in the name of their own democracies, but now they want to restore peace in Europe by arms. Such an approach to settling the Bosnian crisis guarantees the three peoples involved in the conflict constant genocide, war, and suffering.

In the interests of ending this abnormal condition for all three peoples and for the purpose of implementing constructive cooperation with the United Nations and the EC in maintaining peace, the government of Yugoslavia supported the Vance-Owen plan as a basis for ending the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But the authors of this plan have prepared maps of the provinces which are totally unacceptable to the Serbs, because they are unjust and jeopardize the Serbs' vital interests, obviously playing into the hands of Croatian interests and Muslim blackmail. We had expected of the international community the highest level of readiness to meet the Serbs' interests and to understand their fear of the possibility of collective destruction—a fear founded on their memories of the Ustash genocide during 1941-45, which is being repeated in this war.

The recent changes made to the Vance-Owen plan, which were adopted under pressure from Muslim representatives, lay the basis for creating a state in which Muslims, Croats, and their coalition will have the advantage and hegemony—a state which promotes the ethnic expulsion of Serbs, because, according to the maps, approximately 40 percent of the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina still live in communities (provinces) under Muslim and Croatian rule. I believe that it is necessary to treat with due attention and respect the statement by the Bosnian Serbs' leadership that 80 percent of the maps are acceptable to them, while 20 percent of the disputed territory must be placed under the guard and control of the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] until a complete consensus is reached by means of political negotiations.

I would like to believe that the people engaged in settling the Bosnian crisis will understand that peace, freedom, and human rights cannot be established with the help of ultimatums, sanctions, and threats. Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina is possible only in the event of there being neither victors nor vanquished. The government of Yugoslavia cannot order the Serbs in Bosnia to undertake anything that threatens their survival. The Bosnian Serbs also are not prepared to carry out Belgrade's orders. Our potential for influencing the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina does not extend as far as it seems to the EC, the Security Council, and the governments of the United States and Russia. Proceeding from erroneous convictions, the international community is threatening to toughen sanctions against the Serbs and Montenegrins, regarding them as hostages of the Bosnian Serbs, Muslims, and Croats. We can only seek their advice, which we are doing. But we cannot order dying people, who are sacrificing everything for survival on their land, to capitulate.

The new sanctions and total isolation with which Serbia and Montenegro are being threatened from New York and Brussels call into question our people's very existence. I ask: In the name of which principles and rights, in the name of whose interests and aims, are our people being threatened with extermination? I ask myself this question: Under these conditions how are we to implement democratic reforms and create a free society and a free market economy, to ensure pluralism in the mass media, to build a rule-of-law state, and to guarantee full compliance with the rights of citizens and minorities? Unfortunately for us, sanctions and other measures merely create an atmosphere of universal dissatisfaction in society and contribute to political and ideological extremism.

In the interests of settling the conflict in Yugoslavia and the Balkans, the international community must gather all its forces and support just that which I consider the more advantageous approach—consistent compliance with the rights of all peoples to state self-determination. If we follow the principles for which President Woodrow Wilson campaigned when he was involved in the peace process at the end of World War I, it seems possible to

carry out a radical state and political restructuring of the Balkans, but only by peaceful means and with the help of talks.

The Serbs do not have a single important national interest which is not essentially democratic and compatible with European interests. We are opposed to any national exclusivity, ethnic homogeneity, and "ethnically pure" states.

G-7 Nations Pledge Support for Yeltsin's Reforms

LD1504123693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—The Group of Seven supports the democratic transformations conducted in Russia by the administration of President Boris Yeltsin who is living through hard times on the eve of a nationwide referendum, according to Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto.

The industrialised nations intend both to support Russian reformers politically and render them such help which would concern every concrete citizen of the country, he said at a press conference on Thursday [15 April].

The success of Russian reform is a key to the success of attempts to create an all-round system of world cooperation, Muto said, adding that the 43.4 billion dollar aid package of the G-7 is intended mostly for the Russian power-engineering industry which is the main hard currency source and for the major enterprises capable of ensuring a gradual transition to a market economy.

Russian Finance Ministrer Boris Fedorov said he is satisfied with the results of the G-7 meeting of foreign and finance ministers in Tokyo and believes it will become a major landmark on the way towards a closer cooperation with major industrialised nations.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said it is very important that now the Russians may be convinced in the efficiency of international cooperation programmes.

If the Yeltsin administration receives popular support at the coming referendum it will provide the necessary powers to the president to promote reform, to continue privatisation, stabilise the rouble and boost private enterprise.

Kozyrev Welcomes Support

PM1504153093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "West Allocates $43.4 Billion Urgently To Support Russian Reforms"]

[Excerpts] Tokyo—The meeting of foreign and finance ministers, scheduled to draw up an emergency package of aid for the reforms in Russia, has ended in Tokyo. A consensus was reached on the key principle: aid must be confined to specific projects, linked to Russian realities, and have a perceptible effect not in the distant future, but in the short term. The Western proposals amount to a total of $43.4 billion.

The debates on this topic were preceded by Russian-Japanese talks, which are attracting great attention in connection with the Russian president's forthcoming visit to Japan.

Tokyo was awaiting rather nervously the information Kozyrev would bring with him. The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, on arriving in the Japanese capital, began his trip with a "sporting disaster." Instead of the Japanese side's proposal of a brief getting-to-know-you meeting with new Foreign Minister Muto, Andrey Vladimirovich chose the fitness option and went off to play tennis at the Russian Embassy, where he twisted his ankle. Fortunately this did not affect the subsequent program—on the Russian side's initiative, Kozyrev visited in hospital Japan's former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Watanabe, who retired recently on health grounds, and this made a very fitting impression on the Japanese. After that, there were talks with cabinet head Miyazawa, which, the participants acknowledged, passed in a very constructive and good atmosphere, something that bilateral relations have lacked for a long time.

Kozyrev officially raised with Tokyo the question of the visit at the highest level which it is proposed to carry out in May. The territorial problem was mentioned in mild terms and in the general context of wishes for the all-around development of bilateral relations. It is noteworthy that the talks resulted in a commitment formulated in mutually agreed terms—to make the Russian president's upcoming visit to Japan a success for both sides. Kozyrev also assessed highly Japan's role in organizing the meeting of G-7 ministers on the Russian question and Tokyo's proposal for economic aid to Russia, the volume of which amounts to $1.82 billion. [passage omitted]

In the Russian delegation's opinion, the results of the Tokyo meeting of G-7 ministers should be assessed most positively—this is the first major step toward the formation of a new international collaboration mechanism and the integration of Russia into the international community as an equal and reliable partner. As Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev noted in this connection, answering a question from IZVESTIYA, although the G-7 group coordinates its actions, it is not in fact a single monolith, so the consensus on Russian affairs and the common line of support for the course of reforms is in a way the outcome of major diplomatic efforts in various areas, embracing basically the whole of the developed West.

It must be borne in mind, the minister stressed, that the dialogue with G-7 is not confined to the present meeting—this meeting was itself planned and held as an

interim stage in preparations for a summit meeting of the leaders of the "Club of Seven," during which, under the "7 + 1" formula, with the participation of the Russian president, the dialogue will continue. Kozyrev also noted the importance of the West's political and economic support at a difficult time for Russia—before the April referendum. However, the minister said that Russia has once again surprised the world. This was a reference to the formula, proposed by our parliament, for counting the referendum voting results. Strange as it may seem, this subject came up in Tokyo. People here, raised in the traditions of developed democracy, are convinced that what is happening with our referendum is an assault on democracy. Naturally, that is only an outsider's view, but it is, you will agree, a characteristic view.

Christopher Cited on Aid

LD1504173593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kutakhov]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—The greatest achievement of the Tokyo conference of the Group of Seven foreign and finance ministers on emergency aid to Russia is an agreement reached by its participants on the formation of a new considerable package of multilateral and bilateral aid to Russia, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a news conference today. At the same time Warren Christopher said that U.S. President Bill Clinton would in addition ask to earmark 1.8 billion U.S. dollars for supporting reforms in Russia of which 1.25 billion U.S. dollars is envisaged as gratuitous aid to Russia, and 300 million U.S. dollars—to other republics of the former Soviet Union.

The United States intends to seek the creation of a two billion U.S. dollar fund within the framework of the Group of Seven with the participation of international financial organisations for rendering financial aid to privatized Russian enterprises and programmes for professional training of the labour force, as well as to various local organisations. Washington is prepared to allocate 500 million U.S. dollars for these purposes gratuitously, Warren Christopher said.

During discussions a question was raised about creating another fund which would promote the process of elimination of nuclear weapons and the utilization of radioactive waste products in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union. The United States undertook to earmark 800 million U.S. dollars for these activities, and is asking the Congress for an additional sum of 400 million U.S. dollars in the 1994 financial year.

U.S. finance minister Lloyd Bentsen described the work of the Tokyo conference with the participation of Russian Vice-Premier Boris Fyodorov and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev as exceptionally fruitful.

Japanese, Russian Officials Comment

LD1504185593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—The main problem of rendering assistance to Russian reforms in the current stage is not the size of credits and subsidies but rather the creation of an efficient mechanism of providing aid, which should be felt by each resident of the country. This is the leitmotif of statements made at today's news conferences in the New Otani Hotel in Tokyo, held by deputy chairman of the Russian Government Boris Fedorov, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto. The four officials summed up the results of a conference on aid to Russia held by ministers of finance and foreign ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized nations which ended in Tokyo on Thursday.

As chairman of the conference, the Japanese foreign minister said that the G-7 supports the administration of President Boris Yeltsin, carrying out democratic market transformations, and who are facing considerable difficulties in connection with the approaching referendum. The leading industrialized countries are determined not only render political assistance to Russian reformers, but give aid which could be felt by every citizen of the country, Muto said.

He emphasised that the success of Russian transformations is the key to the success or failure of attempts to create a comprehensive system of cooperation in the world. Commenting on a package of aid to Russia worth 43.4 billion dollars which was endorsed at the conference and which contains programmes promised earlier, but not implemented, and new programs, Muto said that the G-7 intends to render special assistance to the energy sector of the Russian economy as a source of convertible currency, and to key enterprises of the country capable of ensuring its gradual transition to the market economy.

For his part, Russian Vice-Premier Fedorov said that he was satisfied with the results of the conference and considers them to be an important landmark on the way to closer cooperation with leading economic world powers. In his opinion, international assistance will help Russia's own efforts to carry out transformations. Touching upon a package of the G-7 aid to Russia endorsed today, Fedorov singled out two new elements—loans offered by the International Monetary Fund, restructuring of the economy in a transitional period and a programme of aid to minor and medium-sized entrepreneurs. The size of allocations in the new package is less important than a precise mechanism of their realization and a prospect of yielding results in the near future, Fedorov said.

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev emphasised the importance of convincing the Russian people of the

efficiency of international cooperation. He noted that the success at the forthcoming referendum will give Boris Yeltsin's administration powers for more persistent advance of reforms and making them better organized in the direction of further privatisation, the stabilisation of the rouble and active assistance to entrepreneurship.

Kozyrev on Relations With Japan, Referendum

LD1504191493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1839 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—The territorial issue between Moscow and Tokyo is one of the most complicated problems of the 20th century. Although this problem is discussed, it must not eclipse all other problems of Russo-Japanese relations, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Russian reporters. Kozyrev participates in a conference of foreign and finance ministers of the Group of Seven on aid to Russia. The meeting ended here on Thursday [15 April].

Kozyrev said that the development of relations with Japan which he described as a promising economic and political partner of Russia in Asia, should not be equated to the solution of this problem, nor should begin with its solution. "Quite the other way, the ultimate solution may result from confidence-building, from the development of full-scale relations", he said.

Asked if the results of the referendum in Russia may prevent Yeltsin's planned visit to Japan, Kozyrev pointed out the president had confirmed the intention to resign if the results of the referendum were definitely negative. The visit would then be out of question. "However, we and our Japanese partners, and the whole Group of Seven, expect the president to receive support at the referendum", Kozyrev said.

The foreign minister said that positive signals are now coming from the Japanese side. "We have long been waiting for them and have been working to prompt them". The president has immediately responded to them. Kozyrev noted it was said the visit may take place in May, but this does not mean stating the timeframe of the visit. This is to be arranged by the sides. This only means that Russia is prepared to react promptly to positive signals. "Although we keep the referendum in mind, we proceed with work calmly and we expect this work to achieve positive results", he said.

The minister said the referendum is nothing out of the ordinary. It is a democratic way of resolving problems when all other ways have been tried. It is a normal way out of a political complication. Kozyrev said that all countries of the Group of Seven are concerned and puzzled by the unprecedented demand that the confidence vote be adopted by the majority of the registered voters. Not one of Western leaders has been elected by such a majority. A strong opinion of the absurdity of such a demand was expressed, he said. Leaders of G-7, naturally, do not interfere in Russia's internal affairs, but they say that this looks like mockery of the democratic process, Kozyrev noted.

Japanese, Russian Ministers Discuss Yeltsin Visit

LD1504163293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, currently in Tokyo, held talks with head of the Japanese foreign office, Kabun Muto.

According to well informed sources, the talks focused on the exchange of views on the concept of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan. May 1993 was chosen as the possible time for the president's visit. The two sides agreed to continue consultations through diplomatic channels on determining the time of the visit and its specific procedure.

In the course of the talks, the two foreign ministers also discussed other aspects of bilateral relations. Specifically, Andrey Kozyrev and Kabun Muto decided to set up a joint Russo- Japanese commission for the collection of information and study of the problem of throwing Russian radioactive waste products to sea water.

The ministers also touched on some humanitarian issues, including the fate of Japanese who had found themselves in the Soviet Union after World War Two and continue to live on Russian territory.

Kozyrev Suggests 'Peacemaking' Forces in Kelbadzharskiy

NC1504142193 Baku TURAN in English 1241 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Baku, 15 April (TURAN)—Correspondent of TURAN, referring to informational source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informs from Moscow that Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Andrey Kozyrev in his talk with State Secretary of Azerbaijan Panakh Guseynov on April 12, suggested to introduce battalion of peacemaking forces of Russia into the region of Kelbadzharskiy.

The same source informed that negotiations with Azerbaijani and Armenian sides testify that release of the region of Kelbadzharskiy and termination of blockade of Armenia will possibly take place by the end of April 1993.

At the same time, representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh insist that the region of Kelbadzharskiy may be returned to Azerbaijan only if Azeri sub-units do not return there.

Taking into consideration last factor, Kozyrev suggested to quarter sub-units of international forces in the region of Kelbadzharskiy for a term of 3-4 months. At the same time Kozyrev considers that battalion of peacemaking

forces of Russia may be quartered on the mountain pass of Murovdag (the road of Kelbadzharskiy-Gyandzha).

Kozyrev intends to inform President of Russia Boris Yeltsin about his suggestions.

Joint Russo-Turkish Diplomacy Urged in Transcaucasus

PM1604091393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 93 First Edition p 4

[Konstantin Eggert article: "Joint Efforts by Russia and Turkey Mean a Possible Solution to the Transcaucasus Deadlock"]

[Text] "Armenia's military victory has turned into a political defeat for it;" this was how President Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan described the situation regarding the conflict in the Transcaucasus.

Obviously he had in mind the statement made by a U.S. State Department spokesman, which was restrained but critical toward Armenia, and a speech made by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which contained a phrase about the possibility of "toughening the stance" of his country "if the clashes continue."

Although Western (but not only Western) sympathies toward the Armenian side in the conflict really have decreased perceptibly in the past year, it is too early to talk of the "political defeat" of Yerevan. Washington is inclined to support the point of view that it is not the Armenian army that is participating in hostilities, but Nagorno-Karabakh local defense forces. This obviously does not suit Baku. But the sharp tone of official Tehran is dictated not so much by sympathy toward the Elchibey government as by other factors, in particular worries that refugees from Azerbaijan will pour over the border into Iran, creating chaos in its northwestern provinces, inhabited by Azerbaijanis.

While the present regime remains in power in Baku, the Iranian leadership will never occupy an openly hostile position to Armenia, viewing Yerevan as a counterbalance to the spread of Turkish influence in the region.

Turkey remains Azerbaijan's only real ally. Obviously—and sooner rather than later—Ankara will nevertheless grant it military-technical assistance, supplying advisers and weapons. But that will be the peak of Turkish support to Azerbaijan. It is hard to imagine a situation in which Turkey would decide on direct armed intervention in the conflict.

On the one hand, this would generate a profound regional crisis in which none of the neighboring states would remain impartial. On the other hand, Ankara's NATO allies would scarcely approve of such a step. Because, despite the fact that the West is inclined to see Turkey as a barrier against the expansion of a fundamentalist Iran and as a model for the new states of Central Asia, both the United States and West Europe are hoping that Ankara will perform this role in the economic and diplomatic spheres, and by no means in the military sphere. Azerbaijan's transformation into a Turkish strategic bridgehead does not figure in the plans either of NATO or of Russia, and what is more it is scarcely supported by realistically minded politicians in Turkey itself.

As it happens, the stance adopted by Russia, which via the lips of President Yeltsin has again offered to mediate a settlement to the conflict, remains as yet insufficiently clear and vigorous. Baku accuses Moscow of "aiding and abetting Armenian aggression." Russia has not been found wanting—government circles are bruiting the idea of closing the border with Azerbaijan.

Objectively, the situation pushes the Russian Federation toward rapprochement with Armenia. Following the break with Georgia and the emergence of Azerbaijan's unilateral orientation toward Turkey (a wholly natural and foreseeable phenomenon), Moscow is left with no allies in the Transcaucasus other than Yerevan. The Armenian leadership is prepared for close allied ties with Russia, founded not least on historical sympathies which have been shaken in recent years but which nevertheless remain sufficiently strong.

This aside, both Armenia and Russia are members of the CIS and have signed the collective security treaty along with certain other former Soviet republics. The document has not yet been ratified, but it will nevertheless create definite advantages for Armenia.

Russia will find it difficult to fulfill its mission of intermediary because the Azerbaijan side is viewing it with ever increasing suspicion. This does not, however, mean that Russia should just stand there and do nothing. A joint Russo-Turkish initiative based on resolute diplomacy could be most effective in the present circumstances. It was brought up during the visit by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin to Moscow in March. Today it is bilateral proposals emanating from both the Russian capital and from Ankara that are capable of diluting the age-old suspicion of Baku and Yerevan and generating some hope for the easing of the confrontation.

Talks With Georgia Center on Use of UN, CSCE

LD1604084293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A news conference has been held at the Russian Embassy in Tbilisi by Mr. Zemskiy, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Georgia, which was almost entirely devoted to the results of the fourth round of the Russo-Georgian talks in Sochi. Specifically, Mr. Zemskiy said that during the talks the Russian and Georgian sides expressed themselves in

favor of more active involvement of the potential of the United Nations and CSCE in achieving a settlement of the Abkhaz conflict.

On the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the delegations agreed to give support to the CSCE efforts to set up a dialogue between the warring sides with the aim of a full-scale settlement. In conclusion, Mr. Zemskiy said that the Sochi meeting and the documents adopted there had been aimed at preparing for a meeting of the two heads of state of Georgia and Russia.

Dubinin Faults Ukraine in Nuclear Talks Impasse

PM1504141593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Apr 93 p 7

[Report by Igor Sukhanov followed by commentary by Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin, head of the Russian delegation to the talks with Ukraine: "Ukraine's Nuclear Drift"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sukhanov] Kiev continues to demonstrate a strong determination not to give up its nuclear weapons. The reasons for its obduracy can be explained thus: the slump in the republic's economy, the rampant inflation affecting the karbovanets, and the sharp leap in prices for all kinds of prime necessities have put the Ukrainian leaders in a very difficult position.

In accordance with tradition, Kiev has sought to find foreign scapegoats for the deterioration in the Ukrainian population's life. The republic's mass media and Ostankino television news broadcasts have been full of reports about chronic shortfalls in energy and raw materials, which are, allegedly, holding back the development of the republic's economy.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has the real facts and figures on this score (see table below). [Figures given are percentages; no further definition of their meaning is legible in one-inch deep blacked-out headline block]

Russian Deliveries to Ukraine January-February 1993

Oil	17	84
Gas	12	104
Coal	30	76
Automobile gasoline	24	103
Diesel fuel	5	134
Diesel oil	4	100
Fuel oil	28	166

However, while it is possible for the mass media to give distorted facts, in the sphere of interstate relations it is difficult to achieve the set objectives when discussion on both sides—Russian and Ukrainian—is conducted by specialists employing deception and emotion. Here clearly the temptation to use the Strategic Forces as an "argument" has reared its head.

As is well known, just a few months ago Ukraine demanded the round sum of $1.5 billion from the states acting as guarantors of its security as compensation for its renunciation of nuclear weapons. Now the cost of scrapping the nuclear arsenal has increased considerably, in Kiev's opinion: Ukrainian leaders are talking about $2.8 billion in compensation. And that is not the ceiling. Experts well informed about Ukraine's intentions are convinced that the republic leaders are trying to drag out the solution of the nuclear issue as long as possible. And that they will use every kind of political maneuver to increase the rate of compensation, employing nuclear munitions as a highly persuasive means of blackmail.

However, despite this "dead spot" which has emerged in the talks on the future of the former USSR's nuclear weapons temporarily stationed on the territory of Ukraine, Russian diplomats are convinced of the need for dialogue to continue. [Sukhanov report ends]

[Dubinin commentary] Following the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' initiative at the 15 January 1993 Moscow meeting, talks aimed at settling all issues connected with the implementation of the START-I Treaty were started between our countries' state delegations. Their main aim is to pave the way for real nuclear disarmament.

The START-I Treaty has been ratified by the United States, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. Ratification of the treaty in the Russian Supreme Soviet was accompanied by two mandatory provisos. First, any deviation by the parties to the treaty from the relevant legal and political commitments of the former USSR and the United States contained in individual agreements, legally binding letters, and politically binding statements relating to the treaty or joint statements on relevant issues is incompatible with the treaty. Second, Russia will regard as the criterion for the delivery of the ratification documents and for the treaty's entry into force not just the accession of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine to the treaty, but the conclusion by those states of a Treaty on the Procedure for the Implementation of the START-I Treaty.

In this regard Belarus and Kazakhstan have honestly discharged their commitments—which cannot be said of Ukraine.

Our delegation has proposed several draft documents to the Ukrainian side for discussion:

1. A timetable for the scrapping of the nuclear weapons. It envisages the following: by 1 August 1993, the cancelation all the flight missions of all nuclear weapons delivery systems temporarily stationed on the territory of Ukraine; by 1 August 1994, the removal ICBM nose sections [golovnyye chasti] and warheads [boyevyye bloki] to central facilities on the territory of the Russian Federation for subsequent dismantling; by 1 August 1993, reducing the combat readiness of all nuclear munitions on long-range cruise missiles and transporting them to central facilities for subsequent dismantling.

2. A draft agreement on the procedure for recycling the weapons [boyezaryady], including questions of reprocessing the nuclear components for use as fuel at Ukrainian atomic power stations. The Russian delegation has, at the Ukrainian side's request, appended to the document all estimates relating to these operations.

No response to these draft documents has been forthcoming from Kiev.

3. While strategic offensive armaments of the former USSR temporarily remain on the territory of Ukraine, Russia is ready to negotiate material and technical backup and supervision under guarantees and patents of the operation of the Strategic Forces' nuclear missile systems. These measures are essential first and foremost to guarantee nuclear and environmental safety. A relevant draft agreement was drawn up as early as the first round of Russian-Ukrainian talks. By the second round of talks the draft was completely finalized, had been approved by the Ukrainian side, and was ready to be signed at the level of the leaders of the two countries' governments. Unfortunately, at the start of the second round Ukraine questioned the agreed text. Thanks to great efforts on the part of my delegation colleagues, accord on the possibility of signing the agreement was again reached by the end of the second round. But the fate of the previous drafts then befell this document too—a month has now gone by and again no confirmation of the possibility of signing this agreement has come from Kiev. Just as there has been no response by the Ukrainian side to the draft agreement prepared by the Russian delegation on ensuring the safety of nuclear weapons—an extremely important problem.

Thus, as far as the main points are concerned—the start of a process of real disarmament, ratification of the START I Treaty, and Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons—Russia has taken all necessary steps stemming from its international commitments. We remain ready to continue the talks and are interested in their being completed as quickly as possible.

Kozyrev Says Russia Exerting Pressure on DPRK Over NPT

LD1504124693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS—Russia "is using all its channels of influence" to convince North Korea to revise its decision to withdraw from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, according to Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"This is the concern number one for us, it may be even a greater concern to us than to the United States", because it is far away while North Korea is close to Russia, he told TASS on Thursday [15 April].

Russia is very greatly concerned with the emerging situation close to its far east because "the very hint about an A-bomb causes nothing but irritation, to put it mildly", the minister added.

Kozyrev does not believe sanctions will be necessary to make North Korea abide by the treaty. Moscow is using all other possibilities to return Pyongyang back to the treaty which is in its own interests, he said.

Spokesman Urges DPRK To Comply With Nuclear Agreements

OW1604130593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1252 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry believes North Korea, which decided to pull out from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, has so far failed to heed the voice of reason coming from Russia and other states which call on Pyongyang to revoke its decision, Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said speaking at a news briefing in Moscow on Friday [16 April].

The Russian diplomat says Moscow wants Pyongyang to comply in full with its obligations under the non-proliferation agreement being convinced that this will be in the interests of North Korea itself. He was sorry that statements from North Korean officials have so far showed no signs of readiness for cooperation.

Stepashin Promises Timely Withdrawal from Lithuania

PM1504143193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Anatoliy Stasovskiy citing Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security Questions: "Sergey Stepashin: Rapprochement of Positions Is Encouraging"]

[Text] The problems of withdrawing Russian troops from the Baltic countries and the position in these states of Great Patriotic War veterans and former Soviet Army pensioners continue to be among the most complex and central issues for the Russian Federation. This is precisely why these problems are a focus of attention for the Russian Federation president, the Russian Government, and Russian people's deputies. Our correspondent spoke with Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security Questions. The topic was his recent visit to the Republic of Lithuania.

On Mutual Relations With Lithuania

To briefly sum up the results of my visit, Stepashin said, it should be noted that, among all the Baltic states, Lithuania currently occupies a special place for the Russian Federation. Our relations may be described as

follows: we have established very close political, economic, and military ties. Several specific proposals were drawn up during discussions with the Republic of Lithuania leadership which could be adopted even if they do not lead on to a general treaty between Lithuania and Russia. For example, an agreement is planned between the Territorial Protection Ministry and our Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs dealing with issues relating to Russian assistance in training specialized military subunits.

There are also specific proposals on the issue of ties between Lithuania and Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast, which is currently isolated. The Republic of Lithuania is prepared to assist the oblast in the area of freight transit and is prepared to establish a special customs regime for its inhabitants.

On the Situation Regarding Pensioners of the Former Soviet Army

Interesting ideas were expressed during the meetings with the Republic of Lithuania leadership on the forms of assistance to be given to Russian-speaking war and labor veterans, Stepashin noted. From our discussions, I understood that Lithuania is prepared to agree to organize dual citizenship for this category of people. We succeeded in reaching agreement on granting veterans and the Russian community in Lithuania material assistance and special accommodations. For medical services there is an agreement to use a hospital which will soon serve as a basis for establishing a joint Russian-Lithuanian enterprise.

On Withdrawing Our Troops

Regarding the withdrawal of our troops from the Baltic region, the decision by the leaders of Lithuania and Latvia, Algirdas Brazauskas and Anatolijs Gorbunovs, to let us use their specialists free of charge in order to construct housing for Russian servicemen is encouraging news. Meanwhile, it is planned to acquire construction materials using U.S.-allocated money.

An understanding exists with the Lithuanian leadership that, owing to the civilized resolution of the problems connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic, the timetable for withdrawing them will be strictly observed.

It is planned to withdraw the last subunits with much pomp and fanfare. I think this is very important for the 400,000 or so Russian people who will be staying behind to live in Lithuania.

Commentator Views Russian Support for Tajik Government

PM1504113993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 4

[Commentary by Maksim Yusin: "Russia Counting on New Tajik Leadership"]

[Text] Tehran-Islamabad-Dushanbe-Moscow—Tehran, Islamabad, Dushanbe, Tashkent, Ashgabat: Such was the initial itinerary for Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's Asian tour. According to the agenda for the trip, one of the main topics at the talks in all five capitals should have been the situation in Tajikistan. Initially the tour was planned for March. Moscow was afraid that the Tajik opposition's planned "spring offensive" could destabilize the situation in the region. Kozyrev wanted to extract from the Pakistani and Iranian leaders promises not to interfere in Tajik affairs.

The timetable for the trip was not implemented because of the Congress of People's Deputies session, requiring that the trip be put off several times. The minister's busy schedule forced him to make a separate visit to Iran. And the trip made last week to the four other countries was unexpectedly broken off: Kozyrev managed to visit only Islamabad and Dushanbe.

Nonetheless, even on the basis of the first three stages of the aborted tour, one can form an idea of the position which Russia now occupies with regard to the Tajik conflict. The period of hesitation has ended. Between the the opposition, overthrown six months ago, and the supporters of Emomali Rakhmonov, who have come to power, Moscow has made an unequivocal choice in favor of the new leadership. "We shall support those who will ensure stability for Tajikistan," explained the diplomat responsible for the Tajik department in the Foreign Ministry.

In Moscow's eyes, stability is associated with Rakhmonov and his team. The Russian diplomats see yesterday's Tajik leaders, driven into exile and the Pamir foothills, as potential opponents. That is largely promoted by the opposition itself. Its detachments, in an attempt to break through from Afghanistan, are having daily fights with the Russian border guards and taking hostage Russian soldiers and officers.

At the same time the Tajik authorities are doing everything to stress their loyalty to Moscow. The question of the withdrawal of the Russian border guards is not being raised. On the contrary, they are being asked to stay as long as possible. Members of the Russian delegation said with satisfaction at the end of the talks that Tajikistan is preparing a draft law recognizing that the Russian language has the status of a second state language and providing for the possibility of dual citizenship for the republic's 500,000 Russian-speaking inhabitants. The Tajik leaders have told Kozyrev of their desire to organize an official visit to Moscow for Rakhmonov as soon as possible and to sign an interstate treaty with Russia.

In conducting talks in Tehran and Islamabad, Kozyrev in turn did not forget Dushanbe's interests. The Iranians and the Pakistanis both assured the Russian minister that they do not intend to support the Tajik opposition detachments. With regard to Islamabad, you form the impression that this is indeed the case: Tajikistan can

hardly be called a priority avenue of Pakistani diplomacy, which is involved in the conflict with India over Kashmir and the internecine clashes in Afghanistan.

Iran is another matter. The reassuring words of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati were unable fully to dispel Moscow's unease. Iranian religious circles are persistently calling for people to come to the aid of their "brothers in faith" in Tajikistan and, according to Russian intelligence reports, there are several camps on the territory of the Islamic Republic where Tajik refugees are trained as antigovernment gunmen.

The Tajik leaders to whom Kozyrev reported the results of his trips to Iran and Pakistan remained satisfied with Moscow's diplomatic efforts. The only element which somewhat darkened the talks in Dushanbe was the Tajik leadership's intransigent attitude toward its opponents. The Russian minister tried to push through the idea of a roundtable with the opposition. But the reciprocal hatred of the clans fighting for power had obviously gone too far. Neither side wants to hear of dialogue or possible concessions. That applies particularly to the government, which controls the situation from the military viewpoint.

Moscow understands very well how Rakhmonov's supporters achieved such palpable supremacy. The role which neighboring Uzbekistan played in the Tajik conflict is an open secret. "Five months ago Uzbek tanks, under Tajik flags, it is true, ensured the defeat of the opposition," said a diplomat accompanying Kozyrev. To this day Uzbek aircraft monitor Tajikistan's air space and the security guards assigned to the republic's leaders, foreign journalists assert, consist of Uzbek special troops.

Tashkent's interference in Tajik events was received calmly in Moscow. Uzbek President Islam Karimov and the Russian leaders were objective allies. The removal from power of those who (rightly or wrongly) are reckoned to be Islamists evidently accords with both countries' interests right now.

It is hard to say whether the tactical collaboration between Russia and Uzbekistan will become strategic cooperation. On the one hand it looks as though Karimov suits Moscow in the role of regional peacemaker and fighter against the Islamists. The Uzbek president has a positive attitude toward the CIS and to all appearances is prepared to be oriented toward Russia in his foreign policy. As long as he remains in power we can be assured of the fate of the 3 million Russian speakers living in the republic.

On the other hand the Uzbek regime has won a bad reputation in the world. The scandalous arrests of dissidents on the territory of the neighboring state have not gone unnoticed. Close relations with Tashkent could in time discredit Moscow in the international arena. It is entirely possible that one task of Kozyrev's forthcoming trip to Uzbekistan is to persuade the republic's leadership of the need to weaken pressure on dissidents and to undertake at least cosmetic reforms.

Yeltsin Proposes Joint Efforts To Maintain Baykonur

PM1504145193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Apr 93 p 7

[Report by Igor Romanov: "Baykonur's Fate in Presidents' Hands"]

[Text] The president of Russia has proposed to the president of Kazakhstan that they discuss the future of the Baykonur cosmodrome at a personal meeting this May.

In a letter to Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Boris Yeltsin has proposed deepening the two states' cooperation by guaranteeing the continued use of the Baykonur cosmodrome, saying its maintenance and active use are in the vital interests of the two countries' peoples and all mankind.

The document notes that the normal activity of the Baykonur cosmodrome requires vast material and intellectual expenditure, extraordinary efforts, and difficult decisions. However, the Russian president's message says, a number of serious problems have now emerged and the failure to resolve them is reducing the huge space complex' potential and, moreover, posing a serious threat to its future. This is to a large extent because there is still no precisely developed mechanism for implementing the agreements and accords reached, particularly those on the legal status of the Russian military formations (without which the cosmodrome's activity would be paralyzed), shared financing, manning, and the maintenance of law and order and safety at the cosmodrome.

Accord on Debt to Uruguay Signed; Arms Deal Denied

LD1504132493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Madrid, 15 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—An agreement was reached during the visit to Uruguay by Sergey Glazyev, minister of foreign economic ties of the Russian Federation, under which Russia has pledged to repay a debt of $50 million to the Uruguayan side. The EFE agency reported yesterday from Montevideo, referring to a statement by Uruguay's Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonili, that the Russian Federation intends to pay in finished goods.

Abreu Bonili made this statement following talks with members of a Russian trade and economic delegation which was in Uruguay on an official visit. The main task in this dialogue was to look for ways to resolve the debt problem inherited by Russia from the former USSR.

The Uruguayan minister noted that during the talks Glazyev pointed out the impossibility of paying the debt to Uruguay in cash because of the grave economic situation in which Russia finds itself. Both sides agreed that the debt will be paid off by Russia supplying equipment and technology. At the same time Abreu Bonili refuted suggestions that the talks covered supplies of military technology and weapons from Russia in exchange for Uruguayan meat, leather, and wool.

The possibility of setting up joint Russian-Uruguayan enterprises was also considered. This took into account Russia's interest in seeking new markets in Latin America, Abreu Bonili stressed.

UN Envoy Proposes Special Human Rights Session

LD1604083593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0717 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations Organisation April 16 TASS—The Russian Federation has suggested a session of the U.N. Security Council on the level of foreign ministers as a continuation of its January 1992 summit session, Russian Permanent Representative at the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov said here on Thursday at the Security Council consultations. The session could take one day between May 19 and 21, he added.

"The prevention and settlement of ethnic, religious and other conflicts, which undermine statehood and lead to the gross violation of human rights, might become the main topic of discussion at the session. They might help prevent the negative impact of military conflicts on the situation in the humanitarian sphere," the Russian representative stressed.

"The final document of the session might deal with the coordinated approaches to the strengthening of the existing collective security mechanisms, including the improvement of effectiveness of U.N. peace-keeping operations, U.N. cooperation with regional organisations, specifically, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the quest for ways of financing U.N. operations and further measures to settle the most serious crisis situations. It could sum up the results of the work carried out by the U.N. in fulfillment of the report of the U.N. secretary-general."

Vorontsov pointed out that those were just preliminary ideas. He added they were ready to cooperate with all Security Council members in drafting the final document.

Yeltsin Orders Joint Actions With Council of Europe

LD1604110393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin signed a resolution on the programme of joint activities of Russia and the Council of Europe, his press service said on Friday.

The programme of joint actions is an important step for Russia to become a fully-fledged member of the council. It provides for governmental and legislative contacts with corresponding structures of the Council of Europe to prepare Russia for admittance to the prestigious organisation, it added.

Last May Russia applied for membership in this european intergovernmental organisation which engages in humanitarian cooperation. Its main task is to support democratic institutions and protect human rights in Europe.

The president instructed the Foreign Ministry to inform the secretary general of the Council of Europe about Russian readiness to initiate the programme of joint activities. The Foreign Ministry will coordinate the programme from the Russian side and its implementation will be carried out in cooperation with the parliament.

Political Issues

Union of Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Congress Opens

Yeltsin, Volskiy Address Congress

LD1604080993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed the congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs which has opened. He said that whereas decisiveness was required at the initial stage of reforms, they are now entering a calmer phase, something which makes it possible to introduce necessary amendments in the tactics of reforms. Boris Yeltsin said possible amendments will be dictated by common sense and real practice.

In his speech, Arkadiy Volskiy, head of the Union of Industrialists, stressed that despite the depth of the economic crisis which broke out last year, one cannot fail to notice the first shoots of market economy. In Volskiy's view, the year that has passed has corroborated the position of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs on the need for a more balanced approach to economic problems and the use of levers of state regulation of the economy. Volskiy said that reforms should be implemented by those with their feet firmly on the ground.

Further on Yeltsin Address

LD1604095593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The Russian president spoke today at a congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

I consider the restoration of stability in the country my main task this year, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. According to him, stabilization is necessary to ensure that the reforms are carried out judiciously and more consistently, and that they produce results.

Boris Yeltsin said that in the second year of transformations the task of stabilization has become manageable. The country has begun the transition to normalcy, he stressed. Today we understand the depth of the transformations and all the complexities involved in the implementation of the reforms. The ideology of transformation is only just taking shape. Life brings up surprise after surprise, and one has not only to change tactics but also to adjust individual aspects of strategy, the president said.

According to Boris Yeltsin, the main direction of the adjustment is the movement toward common sense, and in the political lexicon, toward a systematic and more balanced position. At the same time, Boris Yeltsin stressed, it is not a matter of changing priorities; tactical flexibility is the necessary condition for stabilization.

The Russian Federation president said what is necessary is the speediest transition of state enterprises to market working conditions, the speedy creation and adjustment of economic and financial levers of state, a significant redistribution of the overall receipts of taxation throughout the country to the benefit of local bodies, and measures to curb inflation and overcome the budget deficit.

Speaking about how the rate of inflation has gone down in recent months, Boris Yeltsin quoted official statistics. However, this received a varied reaction from the hall.

Speaking about specific measures to help the work of enterprises, Boris Yeltsin reported that in order to solve the problem of mutual payments, in the near future the whole payments network of the Russian Central Bank will be transferred to a seven-day work regime, and in the third quarter of this year an automated system of payments will be introduced.

Dwelling on the problems of foreign aid to Russia, the Russian Federation president noted that the G-7 countries are seriously examining the corresponding questions, as well as the possibility of a backward turn if there should be no support for Russia on their part.

Speaking about the need to set up a legislative base to ensure the economic reforms, the Russian Federation president admitted that he has been compelled for the moment to plug the indicated deficiencies in economic legislation, stating that people who are interested in the country's economic stability have come to the congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Boris Yeltsin expressed the hope that commonsense will triumph at the forthcoming nationwide referendum on 25 April, and that the people would vote in favor of continuing the reforms.

Volskiy: Coalition Government 'Fantasy'

LD1604103993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Ivantsov and Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr—Arkadiy Volskiy, leader of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, has called the idea of setting a coalition government under present circumstances an "empty fantasy." Speaking at the union's congress which opened today, he stressed that a coalition government can only be set up after elections, when the weight carried by each party and each bloc in society will be apparent.

Noting that "we now have to have a government of professionals," he voiced support for the Cabinet of Ministers headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin. The leader of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs said he favors the Chernomyrdin government being granted greater independence in the coming year.

Yeltsin Comments on G-7 Aid

OW1604093393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0915 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has voiced the conviction that the West wants to support reform in Russia and means it. Addressing the Congress of Russia's Union of Industrialists and Businessmen in the Kremlin, he stressed that "The G7 is serious towards Russia and is considering in earnest the possibility of a turn backward, if the west withholds economic aid." In his words, "$43.4Bn [billion] already figure at the talks with the partners." This package of aid, he said, had been accurately apportioned. As part of it, the U.S. will give $1.6Bn-worth in credits and Japan - $1.8Bn in credits to Russia in 1993.

The G7 summit in Tokyo in July will have the final say on the matter.

Mr. Yeltsin also voiced hope that the summit would decide at last whether to lift COCOM's [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] restrictions against Russia.

He recalled that the issue had been discussed with President Clinton in Vancouver. The Russian side there insisted on the adoption by the U.S. Congress of a special law since trade restrictions are contained in more than 300 U.S. legislative acts. In Yeltsin's words, Clinton promised to bring up the issue in the American Congress.

The RF [Russian Federation] President hopes that the lifting of the restrictions will enable Russia to cooperate not only with the U.S. but with other G7 countries on an equal footing.

Yeltsin Addresses Moscow Meeting of Intellectuals

Cited on Baltics, Disarmament, Rutskoy

OW1504153493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1514 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In President Yeltsin's opinion, western countries have realized that 25 April is crucial not only for Russia but for the whole world. He said at a meeting with intellectuals at the Bolshoy Theater in Moscow "for this reason, they are ready to help us not only in words as they have done for a whole year".

He forecast that the basic feature of the great power after disarmament would be moral and historical values. In this respect, in his words, Russia's history was a thousand years old, whereas the U.S.A.'s only a little over 200 years old. "I am a nationalist, I want Russia to be a great power and Russia's integration with the world community," the President declared.

Yeltsin confirmed that Russian troops would remain in Estonia and Latvia as long the rights of ethnic Russians were being violated there. In his words, Russia would keep its military presence in Abkhazia until Georgia withdrew its troops. "They will retaliate to each shell fired in their direction with another two shells", he said.

Asked about Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Yeltsin replied: "With the honor of an army officer he should have resigned long ago if he had disagreements with the president".

He reported that the post of vice-president remained in the draft of a new constitution, but "we have not provided for the office of parliament speaker in the constitution", he said, "there will be only chairmen of two houses".

Intelligentsia Support Yeltsin

LD1504194093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent E. Guretskaya, from the "Vesti" newcast; passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] [Guretskaya] Russia's creative intelligentsia came to the Bolshoy Theatre today to meet their president with their own unshakable stance.

[Guretskaya, to woman identified as Bystritskaya] "What would you ask the president now, if you were called upon to speak?"

[Bystritskaya] "I probably would not ask anything. I would just say to him: hold out. Hang on. The people are with you."

[Video shows audience with Guretskaya voice-over] "The most familiar, the most well-known people in the country were at the meeting. They gathered in the Beethoven Hall, which is known in the theatre as the choir practice room, and that will undoubtedly be noted by all the media. The intelligentsia is for the president. It is for stability. That is the main thing for everyone at the moment. The intellectuals have many questions for the president. But the question that was asked by Mariya Mironova, with her characteristic passion, was the most important one for them: how can you work with such a vice president? And in reply she heard: how can he work while having the honor of an officer?"

"Of course, the intellectuals have many requests to make of the president, but, fortunately, those gathered here did not drown in them. The main thing in the run-up to the referendum lies elsewhere." [Video shows man, identified by as N. Petrov, speaking from the floor].

[Petrov] "What are people actually saying? The president has no strength. He cannot do anything..."

[Unseen member of audience] "Unless he is forced to."

[Petrov] "...and I, as a citizen of this country, urge you not to spare anyone, please. If firmness is not displayed here, we shall lose everything. It is now a question of the country's very existence."

[Guretskaya] But what can the president do now?

[Video shows Yeltsin speaking]

[Yeltsin] "For the time being I have got the strength. [laughter] For the time being. [applause] But just think: why is the procurator not carrying out his duties and not instituting proceedings against the newspaper DEN—that fascist paper? Since the procurator is subordinate to the Supreme Soviet, the president cannot touch him at all.

"Why is it that the chairman of the Central Bank [Gerashchenko] is not today, together with the Supreme Soviet, tackling the question of the payment of wages? Just imagine: wages are not being paid at the moment. That is a mine, a huge mine [explosive], specially thought up [and placed] beneath the referendum. And only after the strongest pressure on the chairman of the Central Bank from me personally—something like: Bear in mind that times will change; [tapping table forcefully] I am sure of that; the 26th will come; don't you forget about that, Gerashchenko; don't forget—will he say: I am immediately signing all the documents for the payment of wages." [applause].

[Guretskaya, to man identified as M. Gluzskiy] What do you think? Will you be canvassed?

[Gluzskiy] "There is no need to canvass me. I am a supporter of Yeltsin, and I shall vote for Yeltsin."

Further Comments on Rutskoy

LD1504175993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Veksler]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—Boris Yeltsin expressed hearty gratitude to artistic and cultural personalities for their support for the Russian president and democracy. At a meeting today in the Bolshoy Theatre's Beethoven Hall with representatives of the creative intelligentsia, he stressed the important significance of the coming referendum for the future of the country and the whole world. Putting aside a previously prepared speech, the president preferred to make introductory remarks in which he characterized the political situation in Russia, noting in this the important role of the intelligentsia in forming public opinion.

He said that "at present we are at the very breaking point in the state's history. The only legal means which the complex situation has left us is the referendum. During it the fate of Russia will be decided." The president spoke about the necessity of all-around support from culture, stressing, however, that the difficult transient period of the reforms has not allowed the due attention to be paid to its development.

"But anyway this time will pass and we will never reject the traditions of our culture or its high spirituality," Boris Yeltsin stated. "We will take it with us into the future Russia, for without culture there cannot be a great power!"

There then began an exchange of opinions on a wide circle of issues connected to the stabilization of the country's situation. The president was asked a number of questions concerning various aspects of life in society.

Elderly Russian actress Mariya Mironova asked the president how he "can work with such a vice president and congress." The reply to this was: "I would turn the question around. If you have the honor of an officer and pride, go if you do not agree with the president's line. As regards the congress, then of course it is impossible to work with such a composition."

Boris Yeltsin also said that at the moment a new draft constitution is being prepared in which the idea of a presidential republic is laid out. "We will seek a way of adopting it," he noted. At the same time Boris Yeltsin said that the Constitution does not envisage the existence of the congress as such. There will be a bicameral parliament and strong presidential power.

Further on Yeltsin Meeting With Democratic Groups

Cossacks Present 'Special Message'

LD1504173493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1210 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Olga Yermakova including recorded remarks by President Boris Yeltsin, Cossack leader Vetrov, and Democratic Russia representative Ilya Zaslavskiy; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with the public committee of Russian democratic organizations in the Kremlin today. The committee includes 88 parties, public organizations, trade unions, and associations. Our correspondent Olga Yermakova attended the meeting.

[Yermakova] Yeltsin said that truly like-minded people have gathered here in the Hall of Facets. Representatives of parties, movements, professional and creative unions, and the Army have come here mainly to voice their support for the president. Although quite a few critical remarks were voiced, the majority of speakers urged him to stand his ground in the struggle for reforms and a new Russia. Opening the meeting, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] We are going through the most stressful moment from the start of the democratic

reforms, and we will have to pass through the most risky ordeals. Even when over a year ago, together with Yegor Timurovich [Gaydar] we liberated prices, things were easier. Such a united and irreconcilable opposition as we have now did not exist at the time, there was no treachery, there was no, so to speak, disarray and wavering in democratic movement, or tiredness and frustration among a part of the population. It is real policy and not an optional program that will be put to the test on 25 April—a policy of reforms the implementation of which has always been painful in all countries. Its first positive results are not immediately obvious, but the people's support has not petered out. I feel this support during my trips around the country now.

People want not only to vote but to help, to do all they can. Unfortunately, there is no overall organization. Under these conditions, as never before, a lot depends on public democratic organizations, and, unfortunately, their great potential has not been fully realized. Democratic movement was taking shape in conditions when people could only dream about radical reforms, ponder upon them, discuss them and dream about them. There was no political party or broad social stratum which could serve as a firm foundation for the movement. Of course, the situation has substantially changed.

Reforms have been a reality for over a year. The number of entrepreneurs and private farmers is growing. Although from the point of view of income there is yet no classical middle class, it is sufficiently represented with respect to the state of mind, the world view and a desire to live in conditions of democracy and freedom.

Democratic movement, however, continues to stick to the old mode of operation, to a great extent. A stable progressive political bloc, directed at reforms, still has not been formed, a bloc which could also take in centrist reformist organizations. Moreover, over this period democratic movement has suffered noticeable erosion. The parties argue with each other about trifles and nuances, but there are many more things that unite us than divide us, something which should be highly treasured. It is necessary to close ranks not only when faced with a direct threat of a backlash, but also in laborious everyday work. We all know clearly that the referendum is not an end in itself. It is a necessary stage in a qualitatively new political campaign that includes both the adoption of a new constitution and new elections. [end recording]

[Yermakova] Here is what ataman [Cossack chief] Vetrov said in his address:

[Begin Vetrov recording] The Russian Cossacks, who have strong positions in five krays, six republics and 14 oblasts of the Russian Federation—areas where Cossacks have traditionally lived—are working in support of your reforms and you personally at the referendum. The atamans of Russian Cossack hosts have asked me to hand you a special message signed by the atamans of Russian Cossack hosts.

Your Excellency Mr. President, the council of atamans of the union of Russian Cossack hosts held in Moscow on 10-11 April 1993 pays its deep respects to you and has the honor of assuring you of its unanimous support for the institutions of presidential power. In light of the course of radical reforms and revival of Russia implemented by you, the council of atamans of the union of Russian Cossack hosts has unanimously adopted a draft decree on a state program for economic backing of the revival of the Cossack community and has the honor to submit it to you for examination. [end recording]

[Yermakova] Ilya Zaslavskiy spoke on behalf of the Democratic Russia movement.

[Begin recording] [Zaslavskiy] Democratic Russia understands very well the importance of a powerful political bloc which would support the president's policy of reforms. Fortunately, a tendency toward the fragmentation of democratic forces is already a thing of the past. The public committee present at this meeting—and Democratic Russia is its member—and the activity of the Democratic Choice bloc whose forums you have attended is evidence of this. New members are again joining the movement, the movement has formulated its program aims, and we believe that we will be able to support the course toward economic reform consistently and constructively not only in an emergency situation during the referendum but also after it. We are ready to assist you in this in every possible way and expect you to maintain dialogue with our movement.

[Yeltsin] My friends, I am grateful to you for the kind words, support and the great work you are doing, and I think that you and I together will not surrender Russia, at least, to neo-Communists. [end recording]

Organizations Support Yeltsin

PM1504152193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 93 First Edition p 1

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Boris Yeltsin: Votes Should Be Counted According to Law on Referendum"]

[Excerpts] President B. Yeltsin met with the democratic movement organization's social committee in the Kremlin 15 April. The discussion, like that of the previous day, again focused on the situation in the country on the eve of the referendum. [passage omitted]

The main position voiced by the representatives of the democratic movement was support for the referendum and for the president's actions. A representative of Russia's metalworkers and miners commented that the main thing now is to strengthen the social base of reform, but the free trade unions continue to be cut off from participation in the elaboration of economic policy. A representative of the farmers' union said that people heaved a sigh of relief after the president announced the referendum. "Private farmers support you, but how are we to interpret the actions of Vice President A. Rutskoy,

who stated at the Fourth AKKOR [Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives] Congress that private farmers in Russia are a historic mistake which must be rectified. How long can we tolerate such statements from a vice president who was elected with our support and in your shadow?" To this the president replied: Tomorrow or the day after I will sign a directive removing responsibility for the countryside from the vice president, but, on the whole, I believe that no abrupt moves should be made before 25 April.

K. Borovoy, chairman of the Economic Freedom Party, stressed in his speech that we must not merely observe the development of events today, we need to be shaping them. There are no experts on business in your entourage, he said, addressing the president. The leaders of Russia's financial groups could provide consultative aid to the president. The democratic organization representatives expressed their unconditional support for the president.

Shakhray: Vote on President Includes Vice President

LD1604002993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—In accordance with the law on referenda, counting votes on the first question in the April referendum ought to be conducted proceeding from the number of people who take part in it. There is no need to issue a special decree for this, Sergey Shakhray, a vice premier in the Russian Government said today in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He expressed hope that the Russian Federation Constitutional Court would make a ruling along these lines, thus "closing the issue".

Sergey Shakhray is convinced that the question of confidence in the president also directly concerns confidence in the vice president. In legal terms, the president and vice president are inseparable. Both the law on presidential elections and the Constitution say that the question of confidence in the president is at the same time a question of confidence in the vice president, he said.

Only in this country, where elementary legal standards are nonexistent, can these two leaders "pretend that they are separate political figures," Sergey Shakhray noted. Voting for no confidence in the president, the electorate also votes for no confidence in the vice president, because they came to their posts together, under one mandate. The pair can only be separated if the president is removed from office, or if he resigns. In this event, from three months the vice president becomes a separate political figure.

If, on the other hand, the vice president resigns, his post remains vacant, and, in accordance with law, the chairman of the government becomes the second most important figure next to the president in terms of the office held, followed by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

Rutskoy Not Deprived of Car, Guards, Doctor as Rumored

LD1504164393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy was not deprived of his office car, guards and doctor, Aleksandr Korzhakov, head of the security service at the Russian president, said on Thursday [16 April] denying a corresponding press release of Rutskoy's staff.

Korzhakov said the "Mercedes" of the vice-president is undergoing repairs and, as there is no similar car in reserve, he received a Russian "Volga" sedan equipped with all the necessary communication and security means.

However, he admitted that after a reorganisation of the security service the number of bodyguards of Rutskoy was reduced from 20 to three security officers.

There was no personal doctor in the staff of the vice-president. He receives the same medical care as before, Korzhakov said.

Commentary Attacks Rutskoy's 'Unstable Nature'

MK1504112093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 Apr 93 p 1

[Mikhail Gurevich article: "Poor Greatcoat. Aleksandr Rutskoy in Thrall to His Own Emotions"]

[Text] "I did not give my word as an officer to those who get carried away with political intrigues in the economy and in the life of society, with blackening their own history, and with intimidating people with military coups and who therefore consider it their duty to fling mud at the person in a greatcoat, referring to his supposedly dull and gray way of thinking," Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy said in his speech at the Ninth Extraordinary Congress. There is nothing unexpected about this grudge. On the contrary: "This proud aristocracy looks on us army men as being wild. What does it matter to them if there is a mind beneath the numbered service cap, and a heart beneath the thick greatcoat?" Grushnitskiy complained in his time. "Poor greatcoat!" Pechorin replied sarcastically [literary allusions].

We all emerged from Gogol's "Greatcoat," a classic writer said. Paradoxical though this may sound, Aleksandr Rutskoy is an example of a "little man" who has attained great power. Let the general's epaulets on his broad shoulders, his splendid mustache, and his passion for dark suits not confuse you. The mentality

and the manners of the Russian vice president have stayed at the level of a failed minor clerk. To dash around, and then come back equally unexpectedly. To come out harshly against a partner, in order then humbly to beg forgiveness and to give an assurance that it will not happen again (according to representatives of the presidential team, this has happened repeatedly). To say something harsh, and then put a strain on his own press service, which several times over the past week has issued explanations like this: The vice president said one thing but was thinking something quite different. The unstable nature of the vice president's character is also confirmed by the fact that there are persistent rumors of his intention to change his place of stationing, meaning his office—a move either to the White House (it is said that appropriate apartments were being prepared there on the eve of the last Congress) or to Staraya Ploshchad.

Aleksandr Vladimirovich has now abruptly bet it all. Rutskoy has gone through the last congresses as the potential start of a rise to the very top rung, to the still warm presidential seat. MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned from circles close to Rutskoy's guard that during the Ninth Congress the vice president's guard was working fully manned virtually around the clock. On the final Sunday, when the vote was taking place, approximately 20 bodyguards arrived at the Great Kremlin Palace, with the vice president constantly in their midst. Such a retinue for "internal use" is quite unexpected. It should be pointed out that during the same period Yeltsin's guard was considerably smaller.

What was Aleksandr Vladimirovich doing behind the tight circle of bodyguards? Some people say he was committing to memory the presidential oath, while others maintain that he was correcting "some edicts." He was getting ready....

Certain political forces and personalities (for example, ambitious "Rutskoyites" or "Civic Union," which is full of its own importance) probably hope that Rutskoy will move into the main Kremlin office after 25 April. Following discussions with the presidential entourage, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS' correspondent concluded that these hopes are not destined to be realized. Even if you allow that the referendum does not produce the results that the president's supporters await, this certainly does not mean that Boris Yeltsin will at once lay down his powers and that Aleksandr Rutskoy will automatically become the head of the executive—even if only for a three-month period. If Yeltsin announces an early presidential election, he will not cease leading the country during the election campaign. This, for example, is what U.S. presidents who run for a second term do.

But we are not in America. Yeltsin and his team are now feeling acutely the lack of a developed juridical base. There is the law on the president, but not, alas, any clear-cut statutes governing the activity of the vice president... There are lots of ways to remove the president, but it turns out that you cannot lay a finger on the vice president (even though he was chosen not by the people but by Yeltsin, who entered his colleague's name on the voting papers). The vice president is, frankly, eternal.

People are tired of reminding Rutskoy of his "word as an officer" and his "honor as an officer." Aleksandr Vladimirovich recently declared once again that he has no intention of resigning and will fulfill his "civic duty" to the end.

To which end?

Referendum Issues

Shakhray Meets Members of Trade Union Federation

Referendum To Head Off 'Confrontation'

LD1504181293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1152 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—Speaking to leaders of member organizations of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR), Sergey Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, said that although the forthcoming referendum will not solve key political problems, it will "lead society away from confrontation." Noting that the constitutional crisis in Russia has reached the boiling point, Sergey Shakhray likened the referendum to a valve though which society will "let off steam of political passions." Although in his view a plebiscite is "not the best method of stabilizing the country's situation," seeking ways out of the crisis by civilized means is "a thousand times better and hundreds of times cheaper than staging rallies and building barricades."

The vice premier believes that the way out of the prolonged constitutional crisis lies through simultaneous pre-term presidential and parliamentary elections. He believes that whatever the outcome of the referendum, it will help to convince society of the necessity of this step.

The meeting with Shakhray was held within the framework of FITUR's consultations with representatives of various branches of power in the run-up to the referendum.

Cited on Rutskoy-Yeltsin 'Differences'

OW1504134193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Although this month's referendum will not resolve all problems, it can lead the society away from confrontation and show the mainstream political groups that there are millions of people behind each of them, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray told a

meeting of leaders of the country's large trade unions in Moscow on Thursday [15 April]. He said the referendum could help bring conflicting forces to their senses and towards searches for compromise on this basis.

Shakhray spoke of the need for finding peaceful ways out of the crisis on the basis of the existing constitution. He named a referendum and early elections as two possible options. The Russian official believes that nothing short of concurrent presidential and parliamentary elections would be held "sooner or later" and can help towards reaching a consensus.

Shakhray said the President's team still believes that the actual turnout must be used as a basis for vote-counting in the April referendum, an issue that he indicated was due to come under consideration by Russia's Constitutional Court. He also said Yeltsin held a meeting with Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin on April 15.

On differences between Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, the Russian official said that it was up to Rutskoy to decide whether or not to resign.

Shakhray said that under Russian legislation, the Vice President was not an independent figure adding that if Yeltsin was rejected by the electorate, so was Rutskoy.

Opposition Threatens 'Resistance' to Yeltsin 'Coup'

OW1504165093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Isakov, one of the coordinators of the Russian Unity opposition parliamentary bloc, said "a coup d'etat is going on" in Russia, and "normal constitutional institutions of state authority are being dismantled." Addressing a news conference in the House of Soviets on Thursday [15 April], he said President Boris Yeltsin's statement to the effect that the day after the referendum he would sign a set of documents making changes in Russia's political system showed that the referendum was no more than a political game for the president, "a coup d'etat being the real aim of the whole campaign."

According to People's Deputy Mikhail Astafyev, Russian Unity has been informed "via diplomatic channels" that, during the Vancouver summit, U.S. President Bill Clinton had assured Yeltsin that the West would support him regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

Isakov said it would not be easy to get rid of the opposition, which "is going to use all measures of civil resistance."

'Democratic Reform' Supports Constitutional Assembly

OW1504163393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Whatever the results of the April 25 referendum, the country needs a mechanism to implement its outcome. Chairman of the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms (RMDR) Gavriil Popov believes that a constitutional assembly could be the best option in this case. He voiced this statement at a press conference on Thursday [15 April]. According to Popov, this organ must have consultative functions and it would be necessary to convene the constitutional assembly according to a resolution by the President and Council of Federation already in May 1993. President, parliament, local authorities of legislative and executive power, political and public associations must define its composition. In Popov's opinion, this organ will facilitate weakening of confrontation between the executive and legislative powers.

Popov has repeated that the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms was calling for a Yes vote on all four issues of the referendum, including the one on presidential re-elections. "It is necessary, because, firstly, the adoption of a new constitution envisages new authority for the president. Secondly, his re-elections are necessary to exclude the temptation of an impeachment which would bring a vice-president to power," he said.

The Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms is proposing that local authorities conduct opinion polls on the necessity to adopt a new constitution by a constitutional assembly simultaneously with the referendum.

Socialists, Christian Democrats for Early Elections

OW1504135093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Christian Democratic Movement urged the Russian citizens to say "No" to the "policy of the president and government which has led to general poverty," and to vote for early presidential and parliamentary elections. On Thursday [15 April], it circulated a statement saying that millions of people have fallen victim to one more economic experiment. The statement also says that the "current political institutions, established by the command-and-administrate system for regional control in a Union state" have become obsolete. The document expresses hope that the people will entrust power to a new generation of politicians "who did not serve the totalitarian regime and who are not corrupt." The leaders of the Socialist Party of Working People called on Russian citizens not to support the president and his policies, and back the idea of early

elections. The communique summing up the results of this party's plenary meeting says that the forthcoming referendum gives the citizens a real chance to change the course of events and make the government re-orient its policy in the interests of the people.

Committee Orders Fliers Criticizing Yeltsin

OW1504194093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Izvestiya Publishers Printing House has begun printing two sets of leaflets in the run up to this month's referendum. One of them quotes figures on falling living standards in Russia calling to withdraw support to President Yeltsin.

The other appeals to "profiteers and mafia members, money-lenders and brokers, corrupt officials and bribe-takers, career-seekers and scoundrels" calling for support for Yeltsin and his policies. It says nobody but Yeltsin and his team will be able to defend their interests against the people. Both leaflets are signed by a public committee calling itself "Reforms for the People".

Director of the Izvestiya Publishers Yuriy Yefremov in an interview with Interfax had reaffirmed receiving an order for printing the leaflets from the Supreme Soviet's editing and publishing department. He said that under the 6-8 Mn [million] ruble order as many as 3 million copies of each leaflet must be ready by Monday, April 19. Yefremov said there was nothing unusual about this order and that the publishers' business was to comply with the customer's order.

One senior printer Vyacheslav Demin told Interfax that the printers would carry out the order but he himself thought the second leaflet to be insulting.

For her own part, head of the Supreme Soviet's editing-publishing department Tamara Lazareva told Interfax that she had received a letter from the "Reforms for the People" committee asking as an exception to help publish a news leaflet in the run up to the referendum. Lazareva said the parliamentary leadership complied with the request but she did not elaborate. As a result, the department's letter No. 1702 was sent to the publishers on April 14.

Lazareva denied having any knowledge of what the leaflets were about.

Interfax parliamentary correspondents have failed to establish the identity of the above-mentioned committee.

Servicemen in Baltics To Take Part in Referendum

OW1504174893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1704 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The statement by the press center of Russia's North-Western Army Group, located in the Baltic states, published in Latvia's biggest Russian-language newspaper SM Today, says that the Russian servicemen, who are citizens of Russia and who serve in the Baltic states, will be able to take part in the April referendum.

Voting will take place in closed polling stations in the Russian garrisons. The servicemen's families will also be able to use their right to participate in the referendum.

As the Russian Law on Defense bans political activity in the armed forces, all political campaigning in the military units has been abolished.

As we reported earlier, the about 10,000 Russian citizens living in Latvia will be able to take part in the referendum. All of the related procedures are being organized by the Russian embassy in Riga.

SCSE Trial

Further on Trial of State Emergency Committee

Prosecution Denies Biased Attitude

LD1504140793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Prosecution at the trial of organisers of the hard-line coup in August 1991 denied accusations of the defence that the team of the prosecutors is personally interested in sentencing the accused.

There is no other interest that an "objective and unbiased consideration of the case", a representative of the prosecution said on Thursday [15 April].

The prosecutors were chosen for the trial for their skills and knowledge and not because they insist on a guilty verdict.

"Although we work in a team each of us has his own opinion and in case he disagrees with a guilty verdict he can voice his opinion", the respresentative said.

The rejection by the defence of Deputy Prosecutor General Eduard Denisov because, as it was stated, he has been recently appointed to the post and had no time to study the documents in detail, is ungrounded, the representative added. The defence does not know how the prosecution was studying the documents and thus it has no right to advance such accusations.

The representative did not deny that violations of law took place during the preliminary investigation, but said that the prosecutors at the trial are not responsible for them and will make their conclusions only on the basis of materials which will be discussed in court.

As two lawyers of the accused did not appear in court the judge postponed the case until Friday.

Proceedings Seen as 'Beyond Reproach'

LD1504165293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Nikolay Semenenko]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—"The judges are likely to reject a claim made by defendants and their lawyers to remove state prosecutors," a prominent Russian expert on law and a master of juridical sciences, who spoke on conditions of anonymity, told a correspondent of CRIME-PRESS in the lobbies of the Russian Supreme Court investigating the case of the 1991 abortive coup d'etat.

The expert expressed the opinion that by rejecting the defendants' appeal, the court might pass a separate ruling as regards Russia's Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov, who had made a gross mistake by publishing his book entitled "The Kremlin Conspiracy: Investigators' Version" before the criminal proceedings began. The defendants and their lawyers have not missed the chance of using the fact to their advantage, the lawyer said.

Assessing the conduct of the judges, the expert said that "Anatoliy Ukolov's (chairman of the court) way of conducting court proceedings is beyond reproach. Since the very beginning he managed to create a businesslike atmosphere with an appropriate working order maintained in the courtroom." According to the lawyer, all participants in the court proceedings behave politely with the exception of some barristers displaying an excess of emotion and volubility, at times deviating from the point in question.

The atmosphere in the courtroom is not typical of conventional Russian courts. The defendants and their lawyers are sitting side-by-side, whereas, normally, during criminal proceedings they sit at some distance away from each other. Some people are seen smiling, including the defendants. Comparing these proceedings with notorious and sad criminal proceedings of the 1930s, one does not feel the grasp of an invisible "hand," directing the proceedings to an inevitable indictment.

Defense Claims Yeltsin Support

OW1504211693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aleksandr Gofstein, counsel for the defense of Anatoliy Lukyanov, former Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, believes President Boris Yeltsin indirectly backed up some of the arguments of the defendants and their defense counsels who demanded that the counsels for the prosecution be replaced. Yeltsin said at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday [14 April] that he thought Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov, in his book on the abortive coup d'etat of August 1991, virtually treated the court's future verdict as a foregone conclusion.

Gofstein told Interfax that "the president thereby made it clear that, in a way, he shared our view that the prosecutor general had no right to publish the book before the bill of indictment was approved."

Trial Adjourns Indefinitely

LD1604082093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0704 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By CRIME-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—The trial of organisers of a hard-line coup in August 1991 was adjourned for indefinite time because of the illness of one of the accused and will resume when doctors provide an official certificate on the state of health of Aleksandr Tizyakov who collapsed in the court room and was hospitalised.

He is staying in an intensive treatment ward with a myocardial infarction diagnosis.

Article 257 of the Russian Criminal Code says that in case of a grave illness of an accused which makes it impossible for him to appear in court the trial of the accused is adjourned until he recovers. The article, however, says that the trial of other accused should proceed only if the separate consideration of the case does not impede the establishment of the truth.

Lawyers told CRIME-PRESS that even if the court rules to stop the trial of Tizyakov and to continue the trial of other coup plotters the judges will need certain time to get a statement from the doctors confirming that the accused cannot appear in court.

The Friday [16 April] session of the court was accompanied by 1917 revolutionary songs performed at the entrance to the court building by a crowd of some 200 elderly people.

Insults towards President Boris Yeltsin were occasionally shouted out.

CRIME-PRESS failed to find the organisers of the rally. Demonstrators said they had come on their own wish to express protest against the current authorities who "brought the people to misery".

Although there were no leaders of oppositional parties or movements at the rally, newspapers and leaflets of the Russian Communist Worker's Party and the hard-line

National Salvation Front were distributed among the protesters. They called to vote against Yeltsin at the coming referendum.

Tizyakov may reappear in court in 12-20 days depending on the course of the disease, according to his doctor who was summoned to the court on Friday.

Aleksandr Kligman, the lawyer of Tizyakov, said his client had a myocardial infarction.

Oleg Baklanov, another accused coup leader, said the state of health of Tizyakov is assessed as of medium gravity and he might be transferred from the intensive care to an ordinary ward.

Baklanov, former deputy chairman of the defence council at the Soviet president, demanded to adjourn the trial because of the absence of one of the accused. He was supported by other coup leaders and their barristers.

Former Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov said the court did not consult the accused when deciding to continue with the consideration of their rejection of the prosecution. Only Aleksandr Kligman, the lawyer of Tizyakov, was given the floor. The opinion of the prosecution that the court should adjourn was not taken into consideration either, according to Pavlov.

After the prosecution confirmed its previous statement on the issue the court adjourned.

Popov Calls For 'Political Trial'

OW1504163293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gavriil Popov, chairman of the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms, believes that the trial of 1991 coup leaders should be not a criminal but a political one. "Surely, someone should take criminal responsibility for the death of those Muscovites," he told Interfax.

"Nevertheless, I think that a political trial of the totalitarian regime and the CPSU, as the basis of this regime, is needed for this nation. We need the same political trial as the trail of the Nazis in 1945 and an international court should be present at this trial. The country has concluded a huge stage of its history and recognized that it finishes with a dead ally in any direction. Such a trial is necessary for those who believe in a communist idea and it would be easier for them to live if a trial was underway which would sum up the results of the totalitarian model of communism," Popov emphasized.

(Detailed text of Popov's interview will be published in Interfax special issue "At the trail of 1991 coup leaders").

Senior Prosecutor Interviewed

MK1504123893 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 16, 18 Apr 93 (signed to press 13 Apr) p 7C

[Interview with Yevgeniy Lisov, deputy general prosecutor and head of the team investigating the State Committee for the State of Emergency case, by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent Igor Baranovskiy; place and date not given: "We Shall Do Without Sensationalism"]

[Text] [Baranovskiy] The intransigent opposition is presenting the upcoming trial as a classic example of the venality of justice—it is allegedly acting to fit in with President Yeltsin's prescriptions by rigging the facts. At the same time the other side is coming out with no less sweeping accusations.

[Lisov] I am tired of repeating this but I will say it once again: Neither the president nor members of his entourage have even made any attempts to influence the investigation. We have been working with completely free hands and we have disregarded the political ambitions of either side.

[Baranovskiy] Rumors are persisting, however, that many important details have been left outside the focus of the investigation. Now Lukyanov, Kryuchkov, and Baklanov have promised to rock society with their revelations if things reach the stage of a trial.

[Lisov] As far as the main thing is concerned—the fact of the seizure of power—I can speak with absolute certainty: There will be no surprises. Of course, these people may have something up their sleeve. For instance, some facts concerning the former USSR president and other Union leaders. I do not preclude attempts to wash dirty linen in public. After all, these people have been living together for decades, climbing, shoulder to shoulder, to the pinnacles of power. Naturally, they will have something to reveal about their comrades "in the struggle."

[Baranovskiy] Everybody is interested in this question: Will Gorbachev be taking part in the trial?

[Lisov] Gorbachev will without fail appear in the trial as a witness. A special injunction has already been passed on this account. We, the investigators, have proposed that some 1,000 witnesses be summoned but for the time being it was decided to narrow it down to the testimony of 120 to 130 people, including Gorbachev.

[Baranovskiy] You have stated repeatedly that the former USSR president was not even indirectly involved with the plotters. Yet there is another view—quite common at that—notably that the investigation has deliberately shielded Gorbachev.

[Lisov] Absolute nonsense. Gorbachev is not a protagonist. It is another matter—and this is purely my own personal opinion—that with time he could have eventually sided with the members of the State Committee for

the State of Emergency—as they had strongly hoped he would. It was no accident that Lukyanov did not schedule a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet until 26 August. Apparently the intention was that during this time the USSR president would have "come around," come to the parliament session and said: "I am for the decisions of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. Let us support this idea."

[Baranovskiy] Even so, there are too many obscure points about Gorbachev's isolation in Foros....

[Lisov] There is nothing obscure about it. The president in the USSR has always been a figure that could overnight be turned from an absolute monarch into a prisoner.

All the people around him, from those shining his shoes to those leading him by the arm, were KGB people. They were directed not by the president but by their immediate boss, whose orders within that system they obeyed unquestionably. Gorbachev could not do anything on his own: Wherever he was and whatever he did, there was constantly the eye, the hands, the legs, and the shoulders of the omnipotent committee. A command was issued and this person under their wardship easily turned into a prisoner under guard. Which was what actually happened.

Let us take communications. Communications were there, all right—in Gorbachev's office there were several telephones. But again the communication channels at some point were monitored by a specific figure, let us say, NCO Masha. And so her immediate boss—let us say, a major—comes up to her and says: "Pull it out!" Masha pulls out a small loop in the right place and the president goes deaf. Primitive and easy.

Now the independent communications system. It was all in a special vehicle, called Kavkaz. This is a satellite communications system. The president picks up the receiver and the signal goes to a satellite. And where does it go to next? Of course, to the KGB—to the Government Communications Directorate, where another Masha could easily block any message from the president.

Now, the red phone or control of the nuclear button. In theory no one but the president may press it. But what happens in reality? The president picks up the receiver and speaks. Somewhere around there are three to five General Staff officers holding the "football." With it, they are to link the president up with the defense minister and the chief of the General Staff. Only after this can strategic forces start operating.

This is how it should be, but the officers are told: "Now guys, get into this car, into this plane, and get the hell out of here together with your football." And they will only say "Yes, sir" in response. Now the president may be dialing the red phone until he is blue the face—he can even yell in it—it is absolutely dead, because a Masha has already disconnected it.

[Baranovskiy] And still, many get the impression that Gorbachev did not emerge very nicely from that August epic....

[Lisov] These are only emotions, but we operate solely with facts. And I think that everybody needs to realize: The main thing in this story is not Gorbachev, not even his isolation in Foros. The main thing was when the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency signed their appeal to the people, directly stating: We are taking power into our own hands. That is first. Then Yanayev's edict: I am assuming the president's functions. That's second. And third, the statement by the State Committee for the State of Emergency which says clearly that all the decisions of the self-styled committee are obligatory for all power and administration bodies at local level. This is when the seizure of power occurred. This is when the committee members committed a crime. And to prove this, there is not even a need for witnesses—there are documents.

[Baranovskiy] There is an opinion abroad that the State Committee for the State of Emergency members acted spontaneously. Although I know for sure that a powerful analytical center led by Baklanov and Akhromeyev had been working for them. I have read their memorandums—they are executed on a highly professional level. If the plotters had strictly followed those recommendations, they could have stayed afloat for much longer.

[Lisov] Absolutely correct. Incidentally, Stepankov and I have written about this in our book.

[Baranovskiy] Since you have brought up the subject of the book, do you think that by this publication you have disclosed secrets of the investigation?

[Lisov] I still think that we have acted absolutely correctly. Here lying in front of me is a bulky file of articles. They are all about the State Committee for the State of Eemrgency case, published in only four newspapers—importantly, well before this book had appeared, before the case was transferred to the court. Who are the authors of these articles? Lukyanov, Pavlov, Starodubtsev, Varennikov, Shenin, and their lawyers. Kryuchkov went even as far as to publish, in the newspaper DEN, the record of his interrogation which he had of course got hold of by illegal means. Naturally, all the authors are trying in their accounts to present the August events in quite a definite light. We have come to the conclusion that this was a carefully planned action by the defense—it needed to shape public opinion in a particular fashion.

Therefore Stepankov and I decided: All right, we were not born yesterday either and we presented the position of the prosecution. We did so without personal assessment of the facts—we were interested only in the facts: Who of those accused did what, what he had written, and how he had conducted himself. Incidentally, this fully corresponds to the requirements of the law, and no one can convince me that I have broken it.

[Baranovskiy] Why then did these people, who had concentrated in their hands control of the army, the KGB, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, make such a mess of it?

[Lisov] First of all, their plans were thwarted by Gorbachev and Yeltsin. And whereas the conduct of the former did not particularly upset the plotters, since they were fully convinced that the president would sooner or later join them, the situation around the "White House" really unsettled them. And none of them ventured to take the risk and assume full responsibility. Although for instance General Varennikov, who was in Kiev at the time, urged the plotters by phone to take the most decisive actions. Shenin and Baklanov were also yelling at Yazov: "What do you think you are doing, you coward, you traitor, by pulling the troops out of Moscow!" But the shouting did not work. Kryuchkov proved to be cowardly by nature. We can only thank God for that. As the geese saved Rome, likewise the hateful "small-cog-in-a-big-machine" mentality played a major role in saving Russia in August 1991. At least he has performed some service for the country.

Military & Space Issues

Official Calls For Direct Export of Military Weaponry

OW1504202093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian military industry does not enjoy a single contract on export of arms in 1993, while it is ready to supply $20 Bn. [billion] worth of various weaponry. State orders on production of weapons are down by 50%, on development of new types of weapons by 40%, while the share of materiel in the total output of the military industrial complex in the first quarter of this year is a mere 19%, only half of last year's. This data was provided by the Deputy Chairman of the Federal Committee for Defense Industries Gennadiy Yampolskiy at an extended board of the Committee on Thursday [15 April].

Yampolskiy claimed the state order for arms export equaled $480 Mn. [million] this year, which basically signified "the state's refusal to offer credits for the exportation of weaponry." As a result the enterprises of the military industrial complex lost some 600,000 specialists and another 14% of the complex's employes are expected to leave in the first quarter of this year.

The deputy chairman regards instability in Russia one of the main reasons for the failure of Russia's military industry on the world market. As a result of it the potential customers are wary of signing long-term contracts. The other cause is that researchers and manufacturers of weapons are "kept aside and lack interest" in arms trade.

A transition to direct export of military produce and services by its manufacturers ought to be initiated to alter the situation, stressed Yampolskiy.

Should the situation stay the same for another 3 to 5 years, Russia will lose its defense potential, thinks the Deputy Chairman.

'Cosmos-2242' Satellite Launched 16 Apr

LD1604102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr—The "Cosmos-2242" satellite powered by a "Tsiklon" rocket carrier was launched from the Plesetsk cosmodrome today at 1149 Moscow time [0749 GMT]. The launch was carried out in the interests of the Defense Ministry. A TASS correspondent learned this at the press center of the military space forces.

Supreme Soviet

Further on CIS Charter Ratification

OW1504155393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Parliament ratified the CIS charter on Thursday [15 April].

In an appeal before the vote, the speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov asked lawmakers to ratify the charter despite all its flaws. He called the document the core of cooperation between the Commonwealth countries, especially in the run up to the April 25 referendum.

Khasbulatov rebuked the executive structures for their attempt to claim foreign policy as its own sphere of activity. He declared that the holding of a CIS summit in Minsk on 16 April and a meeting of the leaders of national parliaments on the same day testified to attempts to become fully separate.

Reporting on the CIS charter at the session, the first deputy foreign minister Anatoliy Adamishin noted that the statute consolidated a new trend aimed at creating on the territory of the former USSR an environment for cooperation in the economic, humanitarian, and other fields.

In his words, the charter is yet more proof of the Commonwealth's advance toward integration rather than toward a civilized divorce, as was earlier expected.

This international document has already been ratified by Kazakhstan's Parliament without amendments or reservations. Kyrgyzstan's Parliament is to ratify it on Friday.

"Russia should not lag behind other CIS countries, all the more because it has ratified fewer CIS documents than the other Commonwealth states", Adamishin said.

Parliament Meets 14 Apr; Proceedings Reported

Salaries Raised by 90 Percent

OW1404142193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament on Wednesday [14 April] decided to raise by 90 percent the salaries of the top-ranking statesmen and other senior officials. The raise will be back-dated to April 1. Before that date, the president, Supreme Soviet chairman, and Constitutional Court chairman each had a monthly salary of 72,000 rubles, the vice president and prime minister were each paid 65,000 rubles, and the prosecutor general, 60,000 rubles a month.

Bill Approved for Radiation Victims

LD1404182093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The Russian Parliament today approved in first reading the bill on social protection of citizens affected by radiation as a result of the 1957 accident at the Mayak Production Association and the discharge of radioactive waste in the Techa River. The bill will be finalized within the next two weeks and submitted to the parliament for promulgation into law.

The disaster which happened in Chelyabinsk region more than three decades ago contaminated an area of 23 thousand square kilometers and affecting a total of 250 thousand people in the Ural region. All of these people are entitled to compensation and benefits as provided in the law "on social benefits for citizens affected by radiation as a result of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power station".

Law on Radioactive Waste Adopted

LD1404204993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2004 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—A draft law "State Policy on Handling Radioactive Waste" was adopted after its first reading at a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet House of Nationalities session today. Earlier it was passed by the House of Republics.

Thus the Russian Parliament has reaffirmed its attitude towards the problem which demands a "legislative regulation of relations in the sphere of guaranteeing safety at all stages of handling radioactive waste."

Commissions and committees of the Supreme Soviet have been entrusted with the task of submitting their comments and suggestions for considering the document during its revised reading.

Proceedings Summarized

LD1604093893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2000 GMT on 14 April broadcast a report by commentator Yelena Ozrina on the 14 April proceedings of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Ozrina noted that two of the 10 scheduled agenda items were dropped: a discussion of the situation in the Northern Caucasus in connection with the events in Abkhazia, and the implementation of the 16 July 1992 Supreme Soviet decision rehabilitating the Cossacks.

Ozrina said the Supreme Soviet started by passing the law on the state monopoly on alcohol production, the draft law on the use of cash-register bills in settlements with the population, and the draft law on responsibility for illegal trade.

Valeriy Ivanovich Gerasimov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Health Protection, then presented a draft law on health resorts. He noted that health resorts are in an alarming situation. In the coming summer, most of the Russian Federation's citizens will be unable to get proper rest or treatment. Health resorts are being closed, and in the past five years virtually no new ones were built.

Ozrina interviewed Sochi Town Soviet Chairman Yu.N. Polyakov, who stated that state support is important. Health resorts which previously made losses were completely unprepared for the market when they lost their state, trade union, and departmental subsidies. It is doubtful if health resort towns like Sochi can be supported. Polyakov explained that the draft law's purpose in taxing health resort towns is to make them self-financing so that they eventually produce income, including hard currency, for the state budget.

Ozrina then said the deputies discussed a draft law on introducing amendments and addenda to the law of the Russian Federation on the status of judges in the Russian Federation, presented by Mityukov Mikhail Alekseyevich, chairman of the legislation committee; a draft law on the social protection of citizens affected by radiation as a result of the 1957 accident at the Mayak production association, which was presented by Aleksandr Sergeyevich Kosopkin, chairman of the subcommission and commission for social policy; a draft law on state policy on dealing with radioactive waste, presented by Yevgeniy Konstantinovich Nesterov, member of the Committee for Ecology and the Rational Use of Natural Resources; and a draft law on

introducing amendments to the law of the Russian Federation on commodity exchanges and exchange trade, presented by Vitaliy Nikolayevich Kulakov, chairman of the subcommittee and committee for economic reforms and property.

The deputies discussed setting up a commission to investigate the 28 March events on Vasilyevskiy Spusk, a street near the Kremlin.

Deputy Mark Matveyevich Kulakov, member of the committee for the budget, plans, taxes, and prices, spoke of the progress of the law on Russia's budget for 1993. He said that in some regions, people have not received any wages for two to three months because the budget has not been passed, and that in consequence people are blaming the Supreme Soviet. He said Voronin and Khasbulatov should be asked to take extraordinary measures to have the law on the 1993 budget signed.

Deputy Dmitriy Stepanov, introduced the second reading of the draft law on introducing amendments and addenda to the law on the Russian Federation referendum. He said that because it is not possible to pass this law by 25 April, the Supreme Soviet Presidium should empower people's deputies to supervise the referendum on the basis of existing legislation. The draft law was passed in principle with 66 votes in favor, two against, and two abstentions.

Aleksandr Sergeyevich Kosopkin presented the draft law on the social protection of citizens affected by radiation as a result of the 1957 accident at the Mayak production association and the discharge of radioactive waste in the Techa river.

People's Deputy Fetisov, deputy for the 755th territory constituency, director of the Mayak production association, noted that people suffered very seriously because of the accident. Along the Techa River alone, 935 people are known to suffer from chronic radiation sickness, even though many have not come forward for treatment. More than 22,000 people have been moved away from their homes. In 1957, 20 million curies of highly radioactive substances were discharged into the air by the explosion, and 18 million of these fell on the industrial site.

The bill was passed with 90 votes in favor, none against, and no abstentions.

An unidentified speaker than introduced a draft bill on state policy on dealing with radioactive wastes. Deputy Stepanov says it is impossible to render radioactive substances harmless; therefore it should not be allowed to bring radioactive waste into Russia from abroad. The law, including this proposal, is then passed in principle with 86 votes in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention .

Deputy Iran Rogachova presented a draft bill on the state monopoly on alcoholic production. She rejects press claims that the Supreme Soviet is trying to reestablish an administrative-command system. Such a state monopoly exists in all countries, and its purpose is to protect people's health. The draft law was passed in the first reading by a roll-call vote, with 73 in favor, eight against, and six abstentions.

Media Committee Rejects Formation of 'Observation Councils'

LD1504200393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—The Russian parliamentary Committee for the Media rejects the idea of forming observation councils at state-owned television and radio broadcasting companies. The recommendation for such councils is contained in a decree of the presidium of the Russian Parliament adopted last Monday [12 April].

Commenting on the presidium's decision, Vyacheslav Bragin, member of the committee, said that "this is the manifestation of the striving for monopoly regarding the media by the representative branch of power." He described this as "an obvious provocation of political clashes between branches of power" and said he regards this as the continuation of attempts made throughout several congresses, when a considerable part of deputies with a right-wing political orientation has been trying to hold the media in check.

Member of the committee Oleg Poptsov said that before the eyes of deputies "laws are being juggled, parliamentary committees for the legislation and the media are virtually being ignored." He described the presidium's decision on observation councils on TV as the introduction of censorship.

Deputy Lev Ponomarev, chairman of the subcommittee on relations with public organisations and citizens' movements, suggested to turn to the constitutional court as the necessary parliamentary procedures have been violated in drafting the presidium's decree.

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov Arrives in St. Petersburg for Visit

LD1504130393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 15 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, arrived in St. Petersburg today. This evening he is expected to meet with scientists, staff of higher educational establishemts, and students and teachers at the St. Petersburg state technical university. He will then meet artists at the St. Petersburg Conservatory.

Calls Presidential Administration 'Shadow Government'

OW1504154093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1528 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov declared that "if attempts to repeat a variant of a coup are undertaken, the Congress of the Russian People's Deputies and Supreme Soviet will demonstrate a tougher reaction." On Thursday [14 April] Khasbulatov, on a visit to St. Petersburg, spoke at a meeting with the city's scientists in the technical university named after Peter the Great.

Speaking about a "tougher reaction," Khasbulatov had in mind the situation after March 20, 1993, when President Boris Yeltsin addressed the people and, in particular, declared "a special order to rule the country." This move caused an extremely negative reaction among parliament's leadership and the majority of the deputies. The Russian Constitutional Court passed a resolution that several provisions of Yeltsin's address violated provisions of the constitution. The opposition used Yeltsin's address as a premise to raise the issue on impeachment at the congress but failed to collect the necessary majority of two thirds.

The chairman of the Russian parliament declared that the April 25 referendum "will not give answers to any given issues." He emphasized that "only congress and the Supreme Soviet can adopt any decisions."

Khasbulatov spoke against "a noisy political show" concerning the referendum. In Khasbulatov's words, he was persuading the president to agree to premature simultaneous elections for both the president and parliament.

"In the situation of confrontation between the two branches of power congress and the Supreme Soviet are not a conflicting but a defending party which strives to preserve the usurpation of power," the chairman of the Russian parliament underlined.

Khasbulatov sees the only way out of the existing situation as achieving "a pact of economic consensus between different political forces." Such consensus, he pointed out, has been gained at the roundtable held on the initiative of the Supreme Soviet.

Khasbulatov asserted that the struggle within the executive power had heightened. The presidential administration, he said, had become a "shadow government," "the same political bureau but less controlled than earlier." The administration, Khasbulatov believes, "is actually ruling the government and the president himself." "The new government has appeared broken and is going along a destructive path," he underlined.

Khasbulatov recognized that the Supreme Soviet and the Congress should be blamed for granting "such immense power thanks to which his anti-reformatory activity has become possible" to a sole man (Yeltsin).

According to the new constitution the president should be head of state but not head of executive power, Khasbulatov declared. This is the way to develop the constitutional process and one should reconcile with this. He emphasized that if the parliament "is not disturbed by a noisy political show" the development of a draft of a new constitution would go much quicker.

Calls For 'Simultaneous Elections'

LD1504173393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1642 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Irina Zolotareva and Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 15 Apr—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, described the current sociopolitical situation in the country as "a crisis of statehood which is eroding the whole society." He spoke at a meeting with scientists and teachers of higher educational establishments of St. Petersburg held at the local technological university today.

In his 90-minute address Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed that the Supreme Soviet and corps of deputies are to blame for the crisis that has set in because they had given too much power to a single person—the president. In the view of the head of parliament, the president "is implementing antireformist activity through antimarket means which are inappropriate in the current situation."

Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that the people have already lost their confidence in the bodies of power and that this is clear without any referendum. "We will see that no one will win in the 25 April referendum; the Russian state is going to be the loser," he said, having also noted that the Supreme Soviet and the congress represent the defending side whose aim is not to allow a usurpation of power. In his opinion, the solution lies in the new, simultaneous elections of both the parliament and the president, which should take place no later than the spring of 1994.

Further on Government Delegation's Tour of Stavropol

Vice Premier Calls For Price Moderation

LD1504195993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Russia's Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha on a working visit in Stavropol kray said he spoke in favor of—and approached the president with—a proposal to moderate price increases which cause disruption of sowing work and price increases on basic foodstuff. He pointed out that the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government understand the problems of the agro-industrial complex.

Further on Chernomyrdin Visit

LD1504172893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1642 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol April 15 TASS—The role of the state is to increase during the transition period to a market economy as hopes that the free market can govern the process itself in Russia proved groundless, according to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

However, the state will control the transition period by economic methods and means, he told leaders of the southern Russian Stavropol region on Thursday [14 April].

The coming nationwide referendum in Russia will determine the future of the country, as it will deal both with political and economic development, he added.

The prime minister warned Stavropol leaders that it is necessary to keep the conflict in the neighbouring Transcaucasia from spreading to Russia. The Russian leadership is reinforcing the borders in the south of the country, Chernomyrin said, adding that interethnic problems are to be solved "very gently".

The prime minister left for Moscow after the meeting.

Attempts Made To Disrupt Referendum

OW1504195493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of Russian Council of Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin believes that spring field work is the most important task for the Cabinet in the economic sphere. He voiced this statement at a conference with the participation of leaders of local executive and representative power and agro-industrial complex held on Thursday [15 April] in Stavropol on his final day of tour throughout Russia's southern regions.

Regarding the political sphere, the head of the Russian Cabinet has given priority to the nationwide referendum scheduled for April 25 which, he said, "can have far reaching consequences." The premier warned that he did not intend to promote any one issue to be included in the referendum, and that "everybody must choose according to his conscience."

The people must express their opinion at the referendum because somebody can play this card as well, Chernomyrdin continued. Earlier the same day during his conversation with the workers of the Stavropol factory of automobile trailers, Chernomyrdin noted that some people wanted to disrupt the referendum and to do so in such a way to deter the people from coming to vote."

Speaking at the conference, the head of the Stavropol territory's administration Yevgeniy Kyznetsov addressed the Russian government with a proposal to legally restrict migration to the region. Kuznetsov explained that "the territory is suffocating with the abundance of refugees" and currently over 5 billion rubles were needed to accommodate them.

In the evening the premier returned to Moscow.

Mordovian Official Blames Conflict on Khasbulatov

OW1504194393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mordovian Vice-President Vladimir Narezhnyy believes the conflict between the republican government and legislature began at the end of a visit there by the leader of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov. He was speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Thursday [14 April] following a resolution by the Mordovian Supreme Soviet to abolish the presidency and dismiss president Vasiliy Guslyannikov. Narezhnyy accused Khasbulatov of arranging foreign trips for Mordovian deputies, most of them former party and managerial bureaucrats. He said what had happened in Mordovia was a trial of strength rather than a random incident and that attempts were being made to try out in the regions what the hardliners had failed to pull off in Moscow.

Narezhnyy is convinced that Russia and its autonomies are in need of a strongman no matter what he is called-a monarch, duke or president-because parliament is nothing but a talking shop.

He expressed the hope that the Constitutional Court would consider the situation in Mordovia and pass a ruling that could help avert a possible confrontation between supporters and opponents of President Guslyannikov.

Violence Reported in North Ossetia 15 Apr

LD1604104893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 16 TASS—Three civilians were shot dead last night by unidentified raiders in the village of Tsalyk, the Pravoberezhny district of North Ossetia. The attackers stole a tractor, belonging to a local state farm.

ITAR-TASS has today learned from officials of the provisional administration that a militia post in the Promyshlenny district of Vladikavkaz was fired upon twice on the same night. The militiamen had to retaliate. There were no casualties.

The second group of children, orphaned during the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, was evacuated today to a special rehabilitation centre on the initiative of the charity and social

protection order. Assistant director of the internal migration department of the Russian Federal Migration Service Nikolay Chulkov has confirmed that there are 49,000 forced resettlers on the territory of Ingushetia today. "The Russian Government," he added, "has allocated to the Ingush side 145 million roubles to provide them with free-of-charge means, clothing and accommodation. Similar aid is being rendered to forced resettlers on the territory of North Ossetia."

Tatarstan President Discounts Referendum Results

OW1504194193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Forecasting results of the referendum, Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev declared that whatever the outcome of the referendum this would not necessarily lead to firm social stability in Russia and re-elections of president and representative power were inevitable. According to Shaymiyev, there was no consolidating ground in the referendum's issues and, taken separately, they would not achieve the aim set by the referendum.

In an interview with his press attache Mintimer Shaymiyev also emphasized that Russia, not Tatarstan, was conducting and financing the referendum. However, the republic's constitution provided for dual citizenship and the necessary conditions would be created for all potential voters.

In Shaymiyev's opinion, residents of his republic will show a restrained attitude towards the referendum due to the pressure exerted by Russia with respect to Tatarstan. "If the wording presented at the referendum in Tatarstan and supported by the people ensured consent in the republic, I am not sure that the same will occur in the Russian echelons of power following the April 25 referendum," Tatarstan's President declared.

Yakutia Attitude on Eve of Referendum Viewed

OW1504202393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A total of 66% of the 950 people questioned during a poll administered by the State Statistics Committee of the Yakutia Sociological Research Department said they would definitely participate in the referendum, 21% would not come to the ballot boxes, while 13% had not yet decided.

A total 41% would answer "yes" to the first question of the referendum on the vote of confidence to the president. Just as many would say "no". A total of 18% were not sure how they would vote.

A total of 15% of those who participated in the poll trusted the Congress of People's Deputies, while 61% did not.

A total of 16% would respond positively to the second question, 23% negatively.

The third question would be answered "yes" by 17% and the fourth by 23%.

A total of 32% stood for the simultaneous re-election of the president and the people's deputies of the Russian Federation.

IAEA Confirms Conclusions on Tomsk Accident

LD1604061893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0526 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yakushev]

[Text] Tomsk, April 16 (TASS)—A delegation of experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed the conclusions of Russian experts on the causes and the aftermath of a radioactive accident in the Siberian city of Tomsk-7.

The level of contamination does not demand the evacuation of the local population, experts from the United States, Argentina and Great Britain agreed. However, a Greenpeace delegation objects the statement.

Greenpeace members who visited Tomsk-7 said the "consoling" conclusion of Russian experts was prompted by the interests of the Atomic Energy Ministry.

In the meantime, the regional authorities decided to evacuate children from the village of Georgiyevka, the only settlement which was affected by radiation.

Ingushetia Administration Head on Plight of Russians

PM1404163993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Russian Slaves Discovered in Zone of Ossetian-Ingush Conflict"]

[Text] The rights of all Russian citizens irrespective of their nationality should be reliably protected, states Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin, head of the provisional administration in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. But without effective aid from the federal authorities the problems which have arisen today in the region to face the Russian-speaking population will not be successfully resolved.

Not so long ago on the territory of Ingushetia in the region of Sleptsovskaya village a Russian Internal Affairs Ministry operational investigation group discovered a grave from which they extracted seven bodies. Examination showed they were buried in March this year and consequently could not be the bodies of victims of the armed conflict. The dead have not yet been identified but on the basis of a number of circumstantial but

undoubted signs they were representatives of the Russian-speaking population held by force by the Ingush by force and used as slaves.

This information was heard during a press conference by Colonel General Yu. Shatalin, head of the provisional administration. He said that the provisional administration has information about many slaves held in Ingushetia and about other secret graves. But since the state of emergency over a large part of Ingushetia has been repealed, searches for such people held by force or for burial grounds are virtually impossible without the assistance of the local authorities. "This problem is one of the most important for me as of today. It is a cause for shame that the Russian press keeps quiet about it and it must be exposed not only for Ingushetia but also for Chechnya," Yu. Shatalin stated.

The provisional administration head's statement, sufficiently sensational in itself (even given that we have already read in the newspapers the stories of latter-day prisoners of the Caucasus) make us turn attention to a more serious problem which has so far indeed been overlooked by the majority of the mass media. The problem of the situation in which the Russian-speaking population—officially neutral but essentially caught in the crossfire—has found itself in the region. The problem of the defense of the Russians' rights under the conditions of the drastic eruption of national sovereignization in former Russian autonomous regions.

The editorial office asked Yu. Shatalin to comment on the situation in more detail.

"Literally a few hours before our talk the hope of a certain improvement in the situation appeared. Ingushetia President R. Aushev issued a brief but tough edict ordering that all slaves be released immediately under penalty of severe punishment. On 12 April he had a meeting with cossacks from Nesterovskaya village during which there was a discussion of the problems of Russians living in Ingushetia. I want to hope that this position of the republic's president will help to improve the situation but so far the situation remains quite grave.

"Russians continue to be driven out of Ingushetia. Over the past year according to my calculations the Russian population in the republic has been more than halved. In this same Nesterovskaya village there were 4,000 people a year ago, today there are less than 2,000 left. No overt hostile actions are undertaken against the Russians. But an atmosphere of intolerance is created around them, hostility is fuelled, moral and psychological pressure is constantly stepped up. I have only just returned from a region of Ingushetia where Russians are living. To this day the school is not operating there. Parents are afraid to send their children.

"The rights of Russian citizens should be reliably protected irrespective of their nationality. But the provisional administration cannot today ensure such effective protection since the emergency situation has been eliminated over most of the territory of Ingushetia. The new local authorities probably do not yet have the forces for this.

"As a result the indigenous Russian population continues to leave the republic. Houses are sold for a song or simply abandoned—there are no buyers. The logic is simple—why buy what can be acquired for nothing. Here the Russians leaving Ingushetia do not enjoy the status and benefits of refugees because it is officially considered they are leaving at their own wish.

"It is perfectly obvious that the provisional administration cannot resolve this entire knot of problems alone. Support from the federal authorities is essential but you form the impression that the center does not recognize the need to look deeply at the thrust of what is taking place, and at least monitor the fulfillment of its own decisions.

"The government decree earmarked billions of rubles to eliminate the consequences of the armed conflict between Ingushetia and North Ossetia (8 billion just for the construction of housing for refugees). But no targeted aid was envisaged for local Russians and cossacks who also suffered during the conflict. As a result the regions where the Russians are living have received virtually none of this aid. The ministry of social protection has handed over 72 million rubles to pay pensions. That money reached the Russian regions in miserly amounts. The Ministry of Agriculture earmarked aid for the sowing campaign. I have just returned from a tour of Ingushetia's Russian villages—the equipment is broken, there are no seeds, sowing is impossible. And this aid, as we can see, has bypassed the villages.

"The Russian Supreme Soviet should primarily be interested in the situation which has taken shape in the region. But we can see no aid from it. Thus the main brunt in resolving problems of the protection of Russian citizens' civil, social, and economic rights rests on the shoulders of the provisional administration."

Belarus

Official Favors Government Participation in CIS

OW1504172293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gennadiy Danilov, chief of the Belarusian Council of Ministers' Department for Civil Rights, Public Security, and Defense, is in favor of the republic joining the system of CIS collective security. Addressing a press conference on Thursday [15 April] in Minsk, he indicated that this would help to solve the problem related to deliveries of spare parts and components for military equipment for the Belarusian armed forces. Currently Russia demands payment for these in hard currency and "Belarus is experiencing a shortage of hard currency."

In Danilov's words, Belarus does not independently produce any kind of arms needed for the republic and joining the treaty on collective security will solve this and many other problems. In particular, Danilov believes that the system of collective security will ensure the inviolability of Belarusian borders.

Danilov expressed concern over the actions of Polish President Lech Walesa, who, Danilov said, had issued an order "to station two armies on the border with Belarus." Danilov reported that this year two aircraft assigned to the Polish Air Force had violated Belarusian air space without any explanation. Danilov did not rule out the possibility that this was being done "for reconnaissance purposes."

Regarding the arms trade issue, Danilov expressed his regret that all subjects of the former Soviet Union "have begun to export arms inherited from the superpower without any coordination." According to Danilov, as a result of these uncoordinated actions prices for arms produced by the military-industrial complex of the former USSR had dropped on the world market.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Ends Visit

LD1604035593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1908 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Tatiana Khryapina]

[Text] Minsk, April 15 (TASS)—Peter Kooijmans, foreign minister of the Netherlands, has ended his official visit to Belarus today. At a news conference devoted to the results of his visit, the Dutch foreign minister noted specifically that his talks with his Belarussian counterpart Petr Kravchanka focused on prospects for the development of bilateral relations and the possibility of opening diplomatic missions and consulates in both countries, as well as the conclusion of a number of agreements and other documents on various aspects of mutual cooperation.

Moldova

CIS Dealt With in Line With Independence Declaration

LD1504205193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1052 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 15 Apr—Moldova is taking part in the settlement of economic, political, and military problems of the CIS and is considering them in accordance with the declaration on the independence of the republic, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told journalists today. He added that Moldova's policy does not feel any pressure on the part of any states. The president said that there are changes toward a better socio-political situation which are, above all, happening because of the efforts of the diplomacy. Speaking about the legislative and executive powers, Mircea Snegur said that they are now dealing with the settlement of problems of the Dniester region and Gagauzia.

Debate on New Constitution 'Gathering Momentum'

OW1504173593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Moldova, the debate on the new constitution is gathering momentum. At the request of an Interfax correspondent, the presidential adviser Cheslav Cobanu speaks about the peculiarities of the republic's fundamental law.

Even the parliamentary commission on drafting the constitution voiced different views on the presidency, he remarked. Some proposed to do away with the presidency, others to limit it to purely declarational functions. "The implementation of this idea would upset the balance between the three branches of power and would create more chaos", Cobanu believes. The state, in his opinion, would be left without such an important factor of mediation as the presidency.

Speaking about the economic aspects of the draft, the presidential adviser noted that it aimed at building a market economy based on public and private ownership. This means, the adviser remarked, that for the first time on record in Moldova the right of private ownership would be constitutionally guaranteed.

He drew attention to what he deemed to be a very important clause in the draft, saying that the state

ensured the inviolability of foreign investment. Moreover a special constitutional article protected the property of other states, international organizations, citizens or persons without citizenship on the territory of the republic.

The draft says that ley is Moldova's national monetary unit, and the exclusive right to issue money belongs to the national bank. Cobanu regards as toughly worded the point prohibiting additional emission of money for bridging a gap in the budget. "Inflation should be countered by means additional to the law, by setting appropriate economic mechanisms into motion and by stimulating business activity", he underlined.

He said "the main thing now is to find a consensus that would make it possible to adopt a new constitution. The priority for us is to create an integral state within the current frontiers of Moldova".

IF [INTERFAX] note: The discussion of the draft will continue in the republic until May. Parliamentary observers expect the next session of parliament to put the ammended draft for a referendum.

Draft Constitution 'Violation' of Local People's Rights

AU1504123493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1815 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 14/4/1993—The project of the new constitution is a violation of the right of local people to have their own national state, declares doctor in philosophical sciences, Nicolae Cojocaru, in an article from "MOLDOVA SUVERANA." By providing in Article II the right of minorities to preserve their ethnic identity, the project fails to provide for local people, as part of the Romanian people, the right of self-determination, states the article. Maybe this matter should be judicially mentioned through the law, Article 1 (1), which, according to Nicolae Cojocaru, will look as follows: "The state of Moldova is the realisation of state self-determination of Moldovan Romanians from the east of Prut." The scientist states that self-determination can exist as state and national sovereignty. The whole people represents in itself the subject of sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova and the subject of its national sovereignty cannot be represented by the whole population but the local people. The preserving of the actual wording of Article II of the project concerning the sovereignty and its subject, clarifies the author, "could deprive local people from the right to resolve by themselves problems that deal with their right of self-determination, in first place, the realisation of the right to preserve its ethnical identity" Nicolae Cojocaru affirms that by offering the right of the carrier of national sovereignty to the whole people of Moldova, the future Constitution could put local people under present situation of Romanian Moldovans from the left part of Dniester.

Russian Citizens To Participate in Yeltsin Referendum

AU1504123093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1815 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 14/4/1993—The Russian Federation Embassy from Chisinau broadcast a communique to Russian citizens who life in Moldova or are temporarily here that a plebiscite regarding vote of trust for President Yeltsin will take place on April 29 [date as received] which will start in accordance with the decision taken from March the 29th, 1993 by the Congress of Deputies from Moscow. Russian citizens are invited to participate in the voting which will take place in the headquarters of the Embassy in 151 Stefan cel Mare St. They must present passports with a visa from the Consulate Section of the Embassy and those who are temporarily here must also provide a document which will prove their registration in the district where they live in Russia.

A special correspondent of BASAPRESS from Tiraspol informed that the Press Bureau of the 14th Army announced the organisation of a plebiscite regarding the offering of a trust-vote to the President of Russia. Russian military officers and their families will participate in the election. Citizens of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic who want to participate in the plebiscite are recommended to address the authorities from Tiraspol. They will consequently vote at the central election sector of the Russian Federation. Election sectors will be located on the territory held by military units of the 14th Army.

Kazakhstan

Parliament Ratifies CIS Charter 14 Apr

LD1604061493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0604 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Ignatov]

[Text] Almaty, April 16 (TASS)—The parliament of Kazakhstan ratified the CIS charter late on Thursday [14 April].

Parliament speaker Serikbolsyn Abdildin expressed hope that the document, which was signed on January 22 in Minsk, will promote the creation of an economic union among former Soviet republics which may be later joined by former Comecon members.

Chairman Hopes for Economic Union

LD1604093393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The tenth session of Kazakhstan's Supreme Soviet completed its work late last night. As he closed the session, Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin noted that the parliament has carried through an important piece of work. Decisions were taken to bring current legislation into line with the new constitution and also to reinforce the legal base of the anti-crisis program that was being implemented. Serikbolsyn Abdildin highlighted the decisions adopted on ownership and privatization and on the provision of assistance to the countryside. The integrity of state property has been legislatively established, and the machinery for its proper use has been determined.

The session devoted particular attention to problems in the sovereign state's international relations. The Supreme Soviet was among the first to ratify the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed in Minsk on 22 January 1993. Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin expressed the hope that the document would enable an economic union to be created, based on the republics of the former Union, but with the possibility that it could be joined by countries that used to be members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Kyrgyzstan

Supreme Soviet 'Methodically' Taking President's Powers

Akayev Criticizes Parliament

LD1504194893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By KYRGYZKHABAR correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek, 15 Apr—"Transfer approval of the new constitution for consideration by a constitutional assembly or else hold early elections of the republic's president and Supreme Soviet after the harvest has been gathered in Kyrgyzstan," proposed Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev at a session of parliament. It was motivated by the fact that since early this morning members of parliament have started methodically and insistently taking virtually all of the president's powers away from him. "You approved all of the president's powers in the first reading," he told the deputies. "Not one proposal that opposed these powers was received during the nationwide discussion of the Constitution. One branch of authority has now begun exercising its dictat—and I mean parliament."

Akayev To Skip Minsk Summit

LD1504122493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Fedorov, our correspondent in Kyrgyzstan, has just telephoned our editorial office. He said that at the republican Supreme Soviet session today, confrontation between parliament and the president broke out into open conflict. [President] Askar Akayev proposed that either the constitution be adopted at a special assembly in the fall or early elections of the president and the Supreme Soviet be held at the same time.

It became known that Askar Akayev will not be going to the meeting of heads of state in Minsk.

Akayev Calls For Early Elections

LD1504130193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By KYRGYZKABAR-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek April 15 TASS—"Let's hold a constitutional assembly to adopt a new constitution or hold preterm presidential and parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan after harvesting time," Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev moved during today's meeting of the republican parliament. This is explained by the fact that the MPs began from early morning to steadily strip the president of practically all his powers.

"In first reading," Akayev said, "you have endorsed all the powers of the president. Not a single objection to these powers was made during the nationwide discussion of the constitution. Now one branch of government is beginning to dictate its will. I am referring to the parliament."

After Akayev's official statement, Parliament Speaker Medetkan Sherimkulov asked the guests to leave the hall to let the MPs, as he said, to discuss the matter in private.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guard Killed on Afghan Border

OW1504165193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Russian border guard from the Pyanje unit was killed in Tajikistan on Friday [16 April] when a group of intruders pursued by the border patrol opened fire. The same day 10 Afghan citizens were arrested on territory controlled by the Pyanje border guards, claiming to have crossed the border "to get some kindling".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan has issued an official protest to the Afghan authorities in connection with another incident on the border.

Meanwhile the military observer of the UN mission in Tajikistan, Bent Agger, informed Interfax that no military effort by the border guards to fully close the Tajik-Afghan border would succeed. He said the resolution of the problem concerning the border could be achieved only in the course of a political settlement of relations between the two nations.

On Friday the Tajik deiegation intends to raise the issue of fortifying the Tajik-Afghan border at the CIS Heads of State Conference.

Commission To Hold People's Deputy Elections 16 Jun

LD1604043893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0300 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday a session of the republican election commission for electing the people's deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan was held. It was presided over by (?Khonmurod) Sharipov, chairman of the commission. Because of the [word indistinct] of a number of people's deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan, for various reasons the commission, in line with Article 53 of the Law on the Election of the Peoples Deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan, decided to hold the election of peoples deputies in 19 polling districts on Sunday, 13 June 1993. The [word indistinct] plan for main activities to prepare and hold the mentioned elections was also approved. The session of the commission was attended by Aynullo (?Nekmatov), head of the affairs of the Supreme Soviet of the republic.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov, Uzbekistan's Karimov Share Views on CIS

LD1504141593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat April 15 TASS—"Our hopes for the Commonwealth of Independent States have turned out to be illusions," President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, currently in Turkmenistan, told journalists today. The Uzbek president confirmed his disappointment with the Commonwealth saying that the CIS has exhausted its historical role as a buffer after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Admitting the inviability of the Commonwealth, whose numerous decisions do not cause any reaction from the heads of state, Islam Karimov has actually shared a viewpoint on this issue of Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov who has never cherished any hopes or illusions about the Commonwealth.

The journalists paid attention to the fact that despite the coincidence of views of both presidents on Commonwealth problems, there were some differing opinions of the leaders of the two Central Asian states on regional problems. While the Turkmen president is not inclined to regard the common character of the regional problems from the viewpoint of a new geopolitical approach called a Central Asian one, about which Saparmurad Niyazov has repeatedly spoken, the Uzbek president sees historical, or, as he put it, dialectical predetermination in the future unification of these states. "The roots nourishing our unity are too deep, and the bowels of the earth are too rich not to dispose of them jointly for the wellbeing of our peoples", the Uzbek president said. According to Islam Karimov, the unification of the states on a regional basis will not do damage to their independence. The Uzbek president did not say what the mechanism of this unification will be like. "This is a matter for the future," he pointed out.

Observers note that this future is unlikely to bring about any changes in Saparmurad Niyazov's position which is characterized by the consistent upholding of the absolute political and economic independence of his state, the reaching of which, the Turkmen president believes, will be guaranteed by the current open door policy excluding any superstructures in the form of a common market.

Karimov Views Russia, Supports Yeltsin

OW1504165393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Uzbek president Islam Karimov is not certain that Russia can find its position at the impending April 25 referendum. He thinks Russia has no alternative to "consensus, compromise between powers". "Only concord can create the basis needed for Russia to move ahead."

Karimov, who is on an official visit to Turkmenistan, spoke to both Interfax and the Nezavisimaya Gazeta ("Independent Newspaper").

He said the "conflict in Russia will harm not only Russia but us as well, for stability in Russia is stability at home". He said the referendum would only heighten the situation.

"I intend to support Yeltsin in Minsk, but not simply as Yeltsin but as a head of state. Things will get worse in Russia if he goes," declared the President of Uzbekistan. His opinion is that today there is no alternative to Yeltsin. But the Russian president "ought to modify his policy and find a mechanism of uniting the opposing sides."

Armenia

Spokesman: State Favors CIS Integration, Sovereignty

NC1504202093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Replying to a NOYAN TAPAN news agency correspondent's request to clarify Armenia's position on the issues to be discussed during the CIS heads of state meeting in Minsk on 16 April, Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Aram Abrahamyan said: We favor creating bodies that will help bring about integration within the CIS framework. We believe that the focus of these talks should be to determine the participating countries' responsibilities toward each other. On the other hand, the functions of CIS coordination bodies should not encroach on the sovereignty of the participating countries. Only the future will determine whether such bodies should be created.

Foreign Ministry Summons Iranian Envoy Over Protests

LD1604112293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 15 Apr—Ahmad Sobhani, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Yerevan, was called in to Armenian Foreign Minister Vagan Papazyan, who asked for an explanation in connection with an incident that took place on Tuesday in Tehran. As the Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reported today [15 April], on 13 April, Azerbaijani students held a protest rally outside Tehran University, which was of an anti-Armenian nature. Then the demonstrators—of whom there were 500 to 600—approached the Armenian Embassy and threw stones at it, smashing windows.

The police were able to quieten the demonstrators, the Armenian Foreign Ministry noted. The minister expressed the disquiet of the Armenian authorities in connection with the incident.

For his part, the Iranian diplomat assured him that the Iranian authorities will do everything possible to ensure the inviolability of the embassy building in Teheran and prevent such incidents in future. The Armenian Foreign Ministry also reported that Vagan Bayburtan, the charge d'affaires in Iran, has been recalled to Yerevan for consultations.

Ter-Petrosyan Says Turkey Siding With Azerbaijan

PM1504130093 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 13 Apr 93 p 12

[Interview with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by Renato Pera in Yerevan on 10 April]

[Excerpt] Yerevan—[passage omitted] [Pera] Mr. President, can Armenia get through another winter like the one just over? And why, if you are not at war but you consider yourselves involved in border incidents, are you suffering the consequences of the war far more than Azerbaijan?

[Ter-Petrosyan] It is easy to say why: Our problems are related above all to energy supply. Oil reaches us—or at least it used to reach us—from Russia via a pipeline and in Georgian territory that pipeline has already been blown up five times, in an area where there are numerous Azerbaijani settlements. The same can be said about the grain which used to reach us from Russia and got looted in Georgia, a republic which, as you know, is in the grip of some troubles. So grain and humanitarian aid were brought in via Turkey, but about 10 days ago Turkey stopped them and also closed its airspace to flights heading for Armenia. Anyhow, in answer to the first part of your question, I am certain that we can get through another terrible winter: The people have a tremendous capacity for endurance and they know that all their suffering is tied to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. That is why we all hope that a cease-fire can be reached as soon as possible.

[Pera] There have been so many cease-fires in five years, all regularly violated. The last one was announced last Thursday [8 April] but both you and Azerbaijan immediately denied it.

[Ter-Petrosyan] Of course, because on Thursday, in the talks chaired by Russian Defense Minister Grachev, we only agreed to meet again. I cannot see what made Grachev take a cease-fire agreement as read immediately thereafter.

[Pera] Returning to the subject of Turkey, how do you view the attitude of Ankara which, along with Tehran, has aimed numerous and not always benevolent appeals in your direction in recent weeks?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Iran's appeals were certainly not tinged with hostility; Tehran has so far succeeded in maintaining a position which is balanced, neutral, and objective both toward us and toward Azerbaijan. In Turkey's case, things are different. While the USSR was in existence, we obviously could not have relations with Turkey or other states, but when we became a republic of the CIS, we immediately established such relations, especially in the economic sphere, even though the Turkish Government encountered fairly serious problems in that regard with both the opposition and public opinion. On the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, it seemed at first that Ankara wanted to play a constructive role, but as time went by, we unfortunately witnessed unpleasant changes in this attitude. It cannot be denied that Turkey has now sided with Azerbaijan, which in my view is a mistake because in practice it has said good-bye to its image as a neutral mediator.

[Pera] The EEC recently made an appeal in which, unlike the UN Security Council which appealed to both sides, it explicitly asked Armenia to withdraw its troops.

[Ter-Petrosyan] Allow me to correct you by reading you the part of the EEC document concerning us: "We appeal to the Armenian Government to exert its influence so that the troops are withdrawn from Nagorno-Karabakh." Evidently the Community is convinced, as are all the international bodies, that we are not present in this conflict but that we can only exert our influence over our brothers from Nagorno-Karabakh, which has proclaimed independence from Azerbaijan but which has still not obtained recognition from us. In any case we are prepared to welcome observers from any body or nation, to take them to the front, and to show them that we have nothing to do with this war. While still on the subject of the EEC, we were shocked to notice the absence of any reference to Azerbaijan in this document—a detail which makes us suspect that the Community is adopting dual standards over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Talking about suspicion, it would be tactless at this point to mention the suspicion harbored by many people that Armenia's failure to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh is a prelude to annexation.

[Pera] But what solution does Ter-Petrosyan posit for this part of the Caucasus; what institutional future does he see for Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Ter-Petrosyan] That land's future must be decided by its inhabitants, whose right to self-determination must be respected, and certainly not by us, by Azerbaijan, or by the EEC. A solution, in my view, can be reached in two stages: The first indispensable one is a cease-fire under international monitoring, with the highest guarantees that the people will be safe and come to no harm, while the second, political stage would consist of consultations for the country's future setup.

[Pera] Your solution is one which the Armenian opposition has not shown that it shares.

[Ter-Petrosyan] The opposition adopts totally extremist positions; it would like the war to continue until Azerbaijan collapses; it accuses the Armenian Government of treason. In short, it lacks realism and political sense.

[Pera] After your offensive—I beg your pardon, the Karabakh offensive—in late March, the Azerbaijani president proclaimed a state of emergency: Do conditions exist, maybe of an economic nature, for you to adopt a measure of that kind too?

[Ter-Petrosyan] For the moment we can see no reason for doing so. In Yerevan we do not have the internal instability that exists in Baku. But if conditions change, we will consider such a possibility.

[Pera] What have your most significant success and your most pointed failure been?

[Ter-Petrosyan] The success, which was not mine alone, was to have succeeded in introducing stability, democracy, and freedom of the press, of thought, and of association in Armenia; to have established serious and fruitful relations with the rest of the world: I think people can and must give us credit for all this. Failure... well, this is also not my fault alone... it has been our inability so far to bring peace to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ter-Petrosyan Reportedly Favors Karabakh Independence

NC1504204893 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 13 Apr 93 p 14

[Barcin Yinanc and Ates Tumer report: "The Objective Is an Independent Karabakh"]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's administration is maintaining the position that the latest Armenian attacks in Karabakh were in self-defense and that a conditional cease-fire is unacceptable. Replying to questions from MILLIYET, Presidential Press Secretary Aram Abrahamyan has said that Azerbaijan is preparing a large-scale offensive and that the recent Armenian attacks were launched to defend Armenian territory.

Stressing that Armenia supports an unconditional cease-fire, Abrahamyan said: "We could agree to an unconditional cease-fire. But if preconditions are put forward, then that should not be on a unilateral basis; that is, the Armenians in Daghlyk Karabakh should also be allowed to put forward their own conditions. For example, they might demand that Azerbaijan's military units be withdrawn from Mardakert."

Asked whether the Ter-Petrosyan administration agrees that Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan, Abrahamyan asserted: "This is not the time to discuss Karabakh's status and what territory belongs to whom. Neither Ter-Petrosyan nor anyone else can have any ideas on who owns that territory. Only the people know the answer to that question."

Abrahamyan's reply indicated that Ter-Petrosyan has readopted the position he held before he came to power in Armenia; that is, he has decided to support Karabakh's independence.

Azerbaijan Said Massing Forces South of Karabakh

NC1504131693 Yerevan SNARK in English 0958 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Stepanakert, April 15 (SNARK)—The Azerbaijani Army is accumulating forces at the southern border of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Karabakh State Department of Press and Information has informed SNARK's reporter of the fact that yesterday from the territories at the southern borders of Nagorno-Karabakh the Azerbaijani units made an attack in the direction of Edillu, village in Gadrutskiy Rayon. They used artillery, tanks, Howitzers and "Grad" launchers. The Karabakh Forces of Self-Defense managed to repel the attack. The Karabakh defenders lost two soldiers. Three soldiers were wounded. Today the situation at the Karabakh fronts is relatively quiet.

Azerbaijan

Turkey Reportedly Sends Troops Into Nakhichevan

LD1604101193 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] According to a report of the KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY, Turkey has begun moving Turkish servicemen disguised as civilians from Turkey into the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. The agency believes this is a result of the Turkish president's 7 April statement in Tashkent, in which he said Turkey has already prepared 800 special-purpose troops which it plans to send into combat operations areas in Azerbaijan.

British Paper Reports Turkish Training of Troops

LD1604105793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] London April 16 TASS—Turkey has begun to arm Azerbaijan, the "DAILY TELEGRAPH" reports. According to the newspaper, the agreement, which President Ozal had signed during his recent visit to Baku, stipulates the training of Azeri servicemen by Turk instructors. The "DAILY TELEGRAPH" believes Russia, another great power of the region, will hardly tolerate much longer Ankara's increasingly belligerent statements and its arms deliveries to Azerbaijan.

Further on Official Visit by Turkish President Ozal

Ozal Views Economic Ties

NC1504172593 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1400 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal's visit to Baku has ended. We have detailed the esteemed guest's visit to our Republic's capital in our newscasts. We now wish to report on the developments that took place on the final day of Ozal's visit:

Ozal met with Isa Kamberov, head of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. Ozal said: The people of Azerbaijan must have faith in the struggle they are waging for their freedom and be prepared now more than ever to resolve difficult problems. According to Ozal, this is one of the main requirements for achieving that objective and is confirmed by the experiences of many countries, including Turkey.

Kamberov said that Azerbaijan benefits from Turkey's experience in its struggle to strengthen its independence and resolve its major problems. Stressing that Azerbaijan remains committed to democratic, social, and economic reforms, he called on Turkish leaders to take more effective steps to help Azerbaijan in this serious period for the Republic.

Ozal said Turkey is prepared to help Azerbaijan realize its economic reforms. Furthermore, he said he believes that Azerbaijan must use its economic strength more productively. That, he said, will [words indistinct].

Ozal and President Elchibey met the representatives of Turkish and Azerbaijani businessmen at the Council of Ministers. The meeting discussed ways to improve trade and economic relations. Acting Prime Minister Ali Mavsimov briefed the meeting on the work that has been carried out to improve economic cooperation since Azerbaijan declared its indepdence. He said that 335 joint enterprises have been established in Azerbaijan, of which 251 were established with the participation of Turkish businessmen. Ali Mavsimov said: The government will use every opportunity to see to it that this cooperation is beneficial.

Ozal asserted: Azerbaijan has the opportunities it needs to improve its economy. The talks that have been held may be regarded as a successful step in that direction.

Ozal also asserted that his country's leaders will provide the support Azerbaijan needs to strengthen the cooperation between the two sides. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's representatives urged Turkish businessmen to invest in vital economic sectors and focus particular attention on the production of modern technical equipment in Azerbaijan.

Elchibey said: Azerbaijan has dramatically changed its social and political relations after 70 years of isolation, and now it has the opportunity to establish free and independent economic relations and is fulfilling its historic duties.

Elchibey expressed hope that Turkey, which is a [word indistinct] and friendly country, will make every effort to improve the mutually beneficial cooperation and that all obstacles to this will quickly be removed.

Ozal, Elchibey Denounce Armenia

OW1504161093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia is trying to increase its territory at the expense of Aserbaijan and create a Great Armenia, President Turgut Ozal of Turkey said. He predicted that if Armenia did not pull its troops out of Kelbadzhar district in Azerbaijan "they will be pushed out of there for it."

President Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan, for his part, said that Armenia "could not possibly launch without outside support" the recent large scale operations. It became known to his government that about three weeks ago 500 terrorists had arrived in Armenia from Lebanon. Elchibey said the long-term objective of "outside forces"

was to occupy Kelbadzhar and Fizuli district to precipitate the overthrow of the Azerbaijani leadership.

Ozal Calls for 'National Unity'

NC1604063393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 15 Apr 93

["Text" of Turkish President Turgut Ozal's farewell statement in Baku on 15 April—recorded]

[Text] This is my second visit to Azerbaijan as Turkey's president. We arrived in Baku on the last leg of our long visit to Central Asia. We have held talks with President Elchibey and Azerbaijan's officials in Baku. Naturally, the main theme of our talks was the state of war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. I can say that 80 percent of our attention was focused on that problem.

I wish to stress right at the beginning that we will give Azerbaijan and our Azerbaijani brethren every kind of support we believe possible. No one should doubt that, because I regard the problem this way: Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan is unjust and unlawful and conflicts with all international rules and norms.

I have clearly stressed several times that Armenia does not have the right to occupy Azerbaijan's territory. They will regret any such action. Turkey has decided to block all air, land, sea, and railway transit to Armenia through Turkey. Henceforth, even the transit of humanitarian aid will not be possible. We have made a resolute decision in that regard. Meanwhile, we will give Azerbaijan the support it needs to defend itself in accordance with conditions allowing us to do so.

Let me also stress that no one can accept acquisition of territory, particularly through the use of armed force. It is impossible for Turkey to accept this; I want the Armenians to be aware of this fact.

Naturally, we also discussed bilateral issues. A rather large number of Turkish entrepreneurs are working with Azerbaijan. More must do so. Relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey must be improved. One of our television channels is received in Azerbaijan. I welcome that opportunity. Other television channels, I mean private television channels, should also beam their telecasts to Azerbaijan. That will be useful in drawing Azerbaijan and Turkey closer together in culturally.

We have to resolve the other issues, particularly economic problems, between the two countries in a special way. For example, we can plan to lift customs barriers eventually. We can plan to establish a completely free trade system between the two countries. Furthermore, we can plan to have completely unrestricted investments. Azerbaijan's economy will develop in the way Turkey's economy has developed, particularly during the past 10 years, if these matters can be realized in the coming months and years. That will create an opportunity for Azerbaijan to benefit from Turkey's economic strength as much as possible. Naturally, we will maintain our talks and I can say that we will also take other steps on these matters.

I wish to stress another point. People are united at such a time. Rumors can spread at difficult times. What is important, however, is to maintain national unity. I have held talks with the leaders of the other political parties. I suggested that everyone in a country must be united at difficult times, particularly during a war. We waged our great struggle for independence in Anatolia as a nation. That is why Turkey has become an independent country and that is why it has achieved economic development. We are confident that Azerbaijan will surmount its difficulties, effectively safeguard the independence and freedom it has achieved after 180 [figure as heard] years, and become one of the strongest countries in the Caucasus.

We held lengthy talks with President Elchibey. He is truly a democratic and learned person who has a vast knowledge of history. He also has a very strong humanitarian character and [words indistinct].

I wish to stress in particular that we are also prepared to support Azerbaijan in other fields. We have provided a credit of $250 million. We will take the necessary measures to facilitate the use of that credit. Meanwhile, we will continue to encourage Turkish businessmen. Azerbaijan will reach Turkey's level in the economic field in a very short period if they establish joint ventures with their Azerbaijani brethren. No one should doubt that fact. The people of Azerbaijan are our brethren. We wish to support them in every field. God willing, we will see Azerbaijan as a brilliant country in the forthcoming months and years. Thank you very much.

Turkey To Provide Support, Not Troops

LD1604105893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara April 16 TASS—"Azerbaijan must settle its problems with Armenia independently," Turkish President Turgut Ozal said on Thursday [15 April] upon his return home from a tour of the Turkic republics of the former USSR. Addressing a press conference at the Ankara airport, he said that his country would render material and moral support to Baku, but could not fight on Azerbaijan's side. "Every state must be able to defend itself," he stressed.

Letter From Iranian President Pledges Support, Aid

NC1504141293 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1222 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Baku 15.04.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Letter of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Abulfaz Elchibey as you know says the letter written as a reply to Azerbaijan

president's appeal in connection with Kelbadzhar seizure, Iran has resolutely condemned the aggressor and demanded that Armenian troops be withdrawn from the occupied areas. Today Iran adhere to its the same positions. It publicly condemns the aggressor in its two official statements made in Baku and Tehran. We are ready to render humanitarian aid to the suffered Muslims in reply to your appeal, says the letter. We will exert all the efforts at international and regional level to withdraw the Armenian troops from Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Urges Active Cooperation With Russia

LD1604104293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 16 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze urged the parliament, the government and all the ministries of the republic to cooperate actively with corresponding structures in Russia.

Addressing the Georgian parliament on Thursday [15 April] evening, Shevardnadze stressed that the republic should pool efforts with Russia at all levels. He noted that the latest round of Georgian-Russian negotiations in Sochi marked a step forward towards the normalisation of inter-state relations. "I insist," Shevardnadze said, "on the continuation of the negotiations. We must have mutually agreed draft documents ready for signature if the question of my meeting with Boris Yeltsin appears on the order of the day."

Rejects Russian Claims on Abkhazia

OW1504200493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1923 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said he could neither understand nor accept Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement at a news conference in Moscow Wednesday [14 April], to the effect that "there are problems in Abkhazia, Ossetia, and Adzharia, and they are asking to be incorporated into Russia." Addressing parliament on Thursday, Shevardnadze said, "There are those who seek to provide the Russian president with information which would force him to make statements damaging to Georgian- Russian relations."

"Some politicians in Russia, who have lately been joined by the president himself, have forced themselves to believe that Abkhazia can be incorporated into Russia," Shevardnadze said, adding that that was impossible, since, "even supposing 100 percent of Abkhazians are willing to join Russia, they are only 18 percent of the population of Abkhazia." [sentence as received]

Tbilisi Reports Rocket Attack on Sukhumi Kills 6

AU1604095593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Here is information we have received from the press center of the Georgian Armed Forces located in Abkhazia.

On 15 April, from 1200 [0800 GMT], the enemy became more active at the Gumista River and opened intensive fire at our positions and in the direction of the town [of Sukhumi]. They fired from tanks, infantry combat vehicles, guns, and rocket launchers. Shells exploded in the city's Shukura and Akhali rayons, killing one peaceful inhabitant and wounding two. In Shukura rayon, a shell damaged a [word indistinct] there causing an ammonia gas leak as a result of which a fire broke out. There was the danger of chemical poisoning. People were evacuated from houses in the vicinity. Firemen, along with the military, extinguished the fire.

At approximately 2100, the enemy again tried to bomb the town. After several shells had been fired, Georgian Armed Forces forced them to stop firing.

The night passed quietly.

From 0830 this morning, the enemy tried to land an amphibious assault force in Shukura rayon. Shore defense units opened fire at the ship and forced it to retreat into deep waters.

From 0900 this morning, the enemy began a mass bombing of the town's central area. Up to 40 shells exploded in different rayons. According to preliminary information, six peaceful inhabitants have been killed and 15 wounded.

Government Forces Attack Abkhazian Positions

LD1604104993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1009 GMT 16 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—Georgian Government troops have been heavily shelling Abkhazian positions in the Sukhumi direction, as well as the populated localities of Esheri, Gvadra and Shetskvara, since early morning today, the Abkhazian defence ministry reports. According to the same source, the armed forces of Abkhazia have dealt a retaliatory blow at concentrations of Georgian troops, their headquarters and barracks.

On the eastern sector of the front, Georgian forces have shelled the populated localities of Atara Armyanskaya, Merkula and Pakuash from mortars and mine-throwers, the report says.